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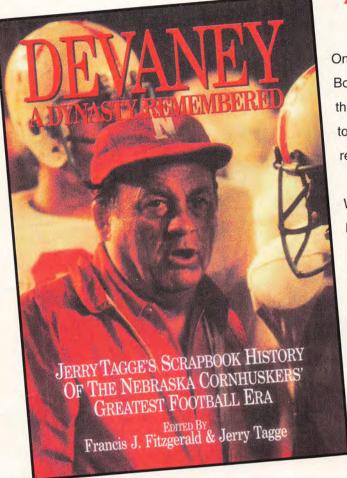
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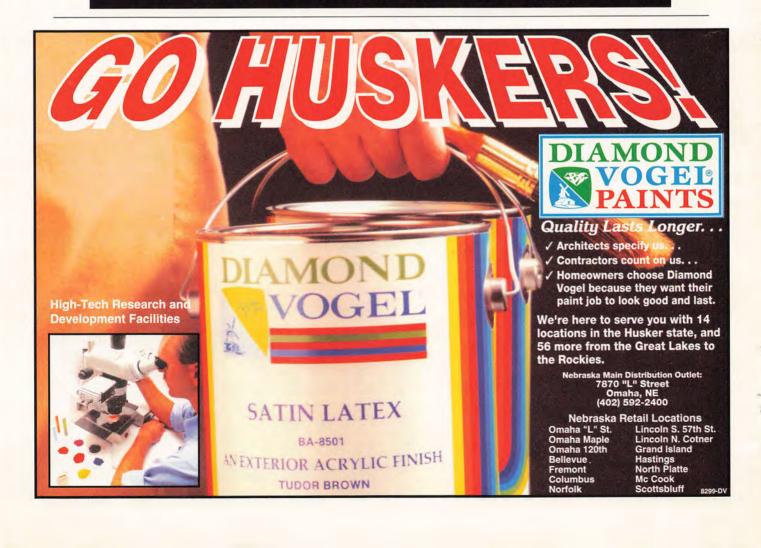
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What started out as a way to differentiate the starting defensive unit from other players has turned into an honored tradition that only the best will ever attain.

26 Masters of the Run

When Tom Osborne decided to add a ferocious rushing attack to the passing game, few could have envisioned the outcome.

34 Specialist

Known mainly for his special teams play, Barron Miles could go down as the best coverage player in Husker history.



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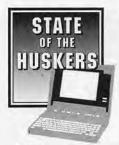






ISSUE

Our next issue (Nov. 12 - Vol. 14, No. 16) will review Kansas and preview Iowa State.



A Frosh Beginning

Freshman Grant Wistrom's immediate impact has turned many heads, including Tom Osborne's

By MIKE BABCOCK

ne year ago, Grant Wistrom was playing outside line-backer and tight end for the Webb City (High School) Mo., football team.

The Cardinals won the state 4A championship, Missouri's second-largest classification, for the second season in a row. And Wistrom earned a place on every significant prep All-America team, including those of *USA Today* and *Blue Chip* and *SuperPrep* magazines.

But no one could have imagined Wistrom would have the immediate impact he's had at Nebraska.

Given his small-town background and the fact that he won't celebrate his 19th birthday until July, it was reasonable to assume Wistrom might sit out this season as a redshirt. Even Trev Alberts, to whom Wistrom has been compared in ability as well as personality, redshirted before earning the Big Eight coaches' vote as conference defensive freshman of the year in 1990. But Wistrom has played, and played well.

"We've had some good freshmen, but I can't ever remember a true freshman who had so much impact in so many ways," Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne said recently of Wistrom. "He's playing at a level commensurate with a lot of our seniors."

Tommie Frazier and Will Shields are among the Nebraska freshmen who have contributed without redshirting in recent seasons. Though more freshmen are playing now because of reduced numbers forced by the NCAA, it's still notable when one does. And both Frazier and Shields needed a little time to adjust from high school to college competition.

"Grant's been at that level almost from the first day," Osborne said

That's high praise, particularly coming from Osborne, who is always careful to temper his assessment of young players in order to avoid creating unreasonable and unrealistic expectations. Obviously, however, Wistrom is special.

The indications were there, of course. It's not like Wistrom's success has been a complete surprise. Recruiters from the nation's most prominent programs found their way to Webb City, a community of some 7,500 located straight south of

Kansas City, Mo., near Joplin. Webb City is far enough from the University of Missouri campus in Columbia, about 250 miles, that "I can't think of anyone who said they wanted me to go to Missouri," Wistrom said.

He grew up an Oklahoma fan, and Oklahoma was among the schools to which he made official recruiting visits. So was Miami. "I wasn't going to turn down somebody's offer of an expense-paid trip to Miami," said Wistrom, who lived in Florida for some eight years.

In high school, Wistrom played against the Hurricanes' Mike Wehner, a redshirt freshman offensive lineman from Lebanon, Mo.

Wistrom's older brother, Chance, played against former Miami defensive tackle Rusty Medearis, who was from Ozark, Mo. Chance earned a football scholarship from Central Missouri State. Their younger brother, Tracey, is a sophomore outside linebacker and tight end for Webb City High.

Wistrom's skills would have been well-suited to Miami's 4-3 defense. He's 6-foot-5 and 230 pounds, with 4.89 speed in the 40-yard dash. He's especially effective as a pass rusher



Like All-American Trev Alberts (above), freshman Grant Wistrom (98) brings small-town enthusiasm to big-time football.



in an attacking defense.

"But the mentality there (Miami) wasn't mine," said Wistrom, who narrowed his to Nebraska, choices Michigan and Stanford before settling on the Cornhuskers.

In addition to his ability as a football player, he's an exceptional student. His cumulative grade point average in high school was 3.95, which helps explain why he has been such a fast learner.

Wistrom felt comfortable at Nebraska. "I know the coaches were interested in my ability to play football,

but they also seemed to care about the person, too," he said.

"Most people back home wanted me to go to Nebraska. I live in Big Eight country, and Nebraska is always one of the best teams in the

"Every time I walk onto the field, I get goose bumps. It's still exciting for me. I don't think it'll ever change.



Huskers Illustrated

Outside Linebacker Grant Wistrom

Big Eight. So they figured that's where I should be."

Like Alberts, who was his recruiting host, Wistrom brings small-town enthusiasm to big-time football. "Every time I walk onto the field, I get goose bumps," he said. 'It's still exciting for me. I don't think it'll ever change."

Also like Alberts, Wistrom is modest, if not self-effacing. He downplays his remarkable accomplishment. Playing outside linebacker is "basically reacting," he said. "There aren't a whole lot of rules you have to abide by."

Midway through the season, Wistrom not only was playing on special teams the usual fate of true freshmen who avoid redshirting he also was alternating with senior Donta Jones at right outside linebacker. "It's

been one of the best times of my life, just to be able to help the team out,"

"I've never seen anything like it," Osborne said.

Wistrom has come a long way.



■ guess Nebraska will never get any respect. We travel to ranked Kansas State, basically shut down their pro-style offense, win the game minus our best quarterback and we drop in the polls. Give me a big break. I wish someone would run the names of the media, and I use that reference loosely, who supposedly vote on the college football polls. Maybe if they had to own up for their reckless picks, things would change.

The pollsters have basically given Penn State the mythical national title by leapfrogging them over still undefeated Nebraska the No. 2 team going into the Oct. 15 weekend. I always thought the whole premise behind the polls was that you don't drop unless you lose. Apparently not.

Big Brother may be watching, but he sure is blind.

> Scott Caruth Chicago, Ill.

Kefreshing is the word that immediately comes to mind. I

enjoyed the article on Ron Brown you recently ran (Oct. 22, 1994). His outlook on life was a much needed break from society's mentality that dictates the key to success is money.

With so many problems in the world these days, people like Ron Brown seem to be few and far

between. For many young athletes, going away to college is a traumatic experience. If there is someone like a Ron Brown at the school, I can see how it could help ease the kids into college life.

I would have peace of mind sending my son to a college where Mr. Brown or someone like him works.

Kathy Terell Sacramento, Calif.

No pretenders! As the Big Eight race begins to unfold it is great to see the contender pretenders fall by the wayside. Kansas State has shown flashes of brilliance, but has been set straight by Nebraska and (Colorado).

Then there's Oklahoma. Need I say any more. This has got to be the biggest disappointment in the conference. It's hard to even get up for them anymore.

Brent Stevens Lincoln, Neb.

It has to be a credit to the program Tom Osborne is running that this team can still be competitive despite all the bad luck that has fallen upon it. Take any team in the nation and make them lose their starting quarterback, two key players in the secondary (Mike Minter and Sedric Collins) and for good measure put their second-string sig-

nal-caller at half speed for a couple games and let's see how they fare. Even a team like Notre Dame, with its proud tradition and strong recruiting classes, would probably falter to some degree.

Keep all that weak schedule talk to yourselves, disbeliever. Teams with weaker schedules and sup-

posedly more talent never fare as well. Oklahoma is a team that quickly comes to mind.

My hat is off to Coach Osborne and the tenacity of the 1994 team. No matter where we end up at the end of the season, everyone associated with the program can hold their heads high.

> Steve Hanson Kansas City, Mo.

We would like to see your opinions on Nebraska athletics throughout the year. Please send your comments and questions to Letters, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501-3222. Huskers Illustrated reserves the right to edit prior to printing.



NOTEBOOK

Scheduling Completed

The Big 12 Conference has taken the first step in finalizing future football schedules by approving a menu of opponents for a 12-year cycle.

It's important to understand that this is the first step in finalizing a schedule," said Bill Marolt, chair of the conference and athletic director at the University of Colorado. "We've determined who we will play and where we will play them, but not the order or the dates of competition.

"We've asked the conference office to bring forward schedules for review and hope to have something in place by the first of the year."

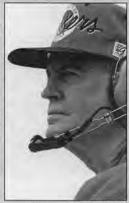
The eight-game conference menu was developed upon a format that features a northern and southern division. Each institution will play five games within its division and three games against schools in the other division. Each team's menu is balanced with four home and four away games per year.

The menu calls for each institution to play the teams in its division annually, with contests against non-division opponents rotating in two-year cycles. That is, the 1996 and 1997 opponents will be the same, but with a flip of sites in the second year.

The 1998 and 1999 menus will feature different non-division oppo-

Osborne's Interest In Polls Flags

Don't blame Tom Osborne if he isn't concerned about the national college football polls right now. After all, when his Cornhuskers beat



Kansas State, a ranked team, on the road by a 17-6 margin, they fell to No. 3 in the Associated Press media poll.

The Huskers remained second in the USA Today/CNN coaches poll, while Florida was replaced at the top by Penn State.

"I'm not surprised by anything in the polls," Osborne said. "I'm a

voter, and you can see how confused I am. Now you see more juggling, and a lot of that has to do with perception and commentary."

Unlike previous years when Penn State could play almost anywhere it liked on New Year's Day, the Nittany Lions are locked into the Rose Bowl as a member of the Big 10 (11) Conference.

BIG 12 NORTHERN DIVISION SCHEDULES

1996 - 2000 - 2004 COLORADO

IOWA STATE
Kansas
Missouri
Nebraska
@ Kansas St.
@ Colorado
Texas A&M
@ Baylor

@ Oklahoma St. KANSAS STATE

Nebraska lowa St. @ Kansas @ Colorado @ Missouri Oklahoma @ Texas A&M **Texas Tech**

@ Texas A&M KANSAS

Kansas St.

@ Missouri

@ Nebraska

Oklahoma St.

@ Kansas

Texas

lowa St.

Colorado Kansas St. @ lowa St. @ Nebraska @ Missouri @ Oklahoma Texas **Texas Tech**

Kansas St.

@ Missouri

@ Nebraska

@ Kansas

Baylor

lowa St.

MISSOURI

Colorado Kansas St. Kansas @ Nebraska @ lowa St. @ Texas @ Baylor Oklahoma St.

NEBRASKA

MISSOURI

NEBRASKA

Colorado Kansas Missouri @ Iowa St. @ Kansas St. @ Oklahoma Baylor @ Texas Tech

Colorado

Kansas

Kansas St.

@ Nebraska

@ Texas Tech

@ Texas A&M

@ lowa St.

Oklahoma

1997 - 2001 - 2005

IOWA STATE

@ Kansas @ Missouri @ Nebraska Kansas St. Colorado @ Texas A&M Baylor Oklahoma St.

KANSAS STATE

@ Nebraska @lowa St. Kansas Colorado Missouri @ Oklahoma Texas A&M @ Texas Tech

COLORADO

@ Kansas St. @ Iowa St. Missouri Nebraska Kansas @ Texas @ Oklahoma St.

Texas A&M

KANSAS

@ Colorado @ Kansas St. lowa St. Nebraska Missouri Oklahoma @ Texas @ Texas Tech

MISSOURI

@ Colorado @ Kansas St. @ Kansas Nebraska Iowa St. Texas Baylor @ Oklahoma St.

NEBRASKA

@ Colorado @ Kansas @ Missouri lowa St. Kansas St. Oklahoma @ Baylor **Texas Tech**

1999 - 2003 - 2007

IOWA STATE Kansas

Missouri Nebraska @ Kansas St. @ Colorado @ Texas @ Oklahoma

Texas Tech

KANSAS

KANSAS STATE Nebraska Iowa St. @ Kansas @ Colorado @ Missouri Texas @ Baylor Oklahoma St.

@ Oklahoma **Texas Tech**

1998 - 2002 - 2006

COLORADO

Colorado Kansas St. @ Iowa St. @ Nebraska @ Missouri @ Baylor Texas A&M

Colorado Kansas Missouri @ lowa St. @ Kansas St. @ Texas A&M Texas Oklahoma St. @ Oklahoma St.

IOWA STATE

@ Kansas @ Missouri @ Nebraska Kansas St. Colorado Texas Oklahoma @ Texas Tech

KANSAS STATE

@ Nebraska @lowa St. Kansas Colorado Missouri @ Texas Baylor @ Oklahoma St.

COLORADO

@ Kansas St. @ lowa St. Missouri Nebraska Kansas Oklahoma @ Texas Tech @ Baylor

KANSAS @ Colorado @ Kansas St. lowa St. Nebraska Missouri Baylor @ Texas A&M @ Oklahoma St.

@ Colorado @ Kansas St. @ Kansas Nebraska lowa St. @ Oklahoma **Texas Tech** Texas A&M

NEBRASKA

MISSOURI

@ Colorado @ Kansas @ Missouri lowa St. Kansas St. Texas A&M @ Texas Oklahoma St.

Osborne said the reason the Huskers slipped in the poll was based on national perception.

Penn State jumped past Nebraska in both polls after beating Michigan, 31-24, in Ann Arbor, Mich. In the AP poll, Colorado moved by the Huskers when it beat Oklahoma, 45-7, at home.

"I think we beat a pretty good team, and yet certainly Kansas State doesn't get the respect nationally of Penn State beating Michigan does or maybe Colorado beating Oklahoma," Osborne said.

Certainly, except for a few weeks early in the year, national perception wasn't on the side of the Huskers. Nebraska did enjoy its day in the sun early in the year, before quarterback Tommie Frazier was sidelined for the season because of blood clots in his legs.

In fact, Nebraska enjoyed a week at the top of the polls, moving up in the coaches poll after beating West

Virginia, 31-0.

Some teams are hot and some fall out of favor," Osborne said. "We were hot with Tommie Frazier at quarterback. We beat West Virginia, and we got way more credit than we deserved. We played one game, and everybody loved us. Now, we're not so hot."

Frazier Continues Recovery

Shortly after doctors dissolved a blood clot in his right calf, Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier was getting himself ready to return to his position on the Husker football

But when Frazier went in to get the OK to return to practice, something unthinkable happened; another blood clot was found. He underwent surgery to tie up a small, superficial vein that doctors believe could have led to the clot in the other vein.

In other words, Frazier was on the sideline again, this time for the rest of the season.

"I didn't swear, but my heart dropped," said Frazier, speaking publicly for the first time since the surgery. "It seemed like it just stopped because I wasn't expecting it. Everything's going fine, and we were on schedule, and then you get this."

Frazier has been out of the hospital for more than a week. He will continue on anti-coagulant medication for as long as six months.

"If things go well, they said I should be back full-speed in time for spring," he said. "Right now, I'm not even thinking about next year. I'm just thinking about right now."

See NOTES page 38



TOMMIE FRAZIER: Hoping for a sixth year

BIG 12 SOUTHERN DIVISION SCHEDULES

1996 - 2000 - 2004

@ Texas
Oklahoma
@ Texas Tech
@ Oklahoma St.

BAYLOR

Texas A&M Iowa St. Missouri

@ Nebraska

TEXAS A&M

Texas Tech @ Baylor Oklahoma

@ Oklahoma St. @ Texas

@ lowa St. Kansas St. Colorado

TEXAS TECH

Baylor Texas Oklahoma St. @ Oklahoma

@ Texas A&M @ Kansas St.

@ Kansas

Nebraska

OKLAHOMA ST. Oklahoma Texas A&M Baylor

@ Texas @ Texas Tech

lowa St. @ Colorado

@ Missouri

OKLAHOMA

Texas **Texas Tech** @ Baylor

@ Oklahoma St.

@ Texas A&M @ Kansas St.

Kansas Nebraska

TEXAS

Texas A&M Oklahoma St. Baylor

@ Texas Tech

@ Oklahoma

@ Colorado @ Kansas Missouri

1998 - 2002 - 2006

BAYLOR

@ Texas Oklahoma @ Texas Tech @ Oklahoma St. Texas A&M @ Colorado

Kansas St.

Kansas

TEXAS A&M

Texas Tech @ Baylor Oklahoma @ Oklahoma St. @ Texas @ Kansas Missouri

Nebraska

TEXAS TECH

Baylor Texas Oklahoma St. @ Oklahoma @ Texas A&M @ Colorado @ Iowa St.

Missouri

OKLAHOMA ST. Oklahoma Texas A&M Baylor @ Texas @ Texas Tech Nebraska @ Kansas @ Kansas St.

OKLAHOMA

Texas **Texas Tech** @ Baylor @ Oklahoma St.

@ Texas A&M Colorado @ Missouri

TEXAS

Iowa St.

Texas A&M Oklahoma St. Baylor @ Texas Tech @ Oklahoma lowa St. @ Kansas St. @ Nebraska

1997 - 2001 - 2005 **TEXAS TECH**

BAYLOR

Texas @ Oklahoma **Texas Tech** Oklahoma St. @ Texas A&M

@ Iowa St. @ Missouri

Nebraska **TEXAS A&M**

@ Texas Tech Baylor @ Oklahoma Oklahoma St. Texas

lowa St.

@ Kansas St. @ Colorado

Kansas

@ Baylor

@ Texas

Oklahoma

Texas A&M

Kansas St.

@ Oklahoma St.

@ Oklahoma @ Baylor Texas

BAYLOR

Texas @ Oklahoma **Texas Tech** Oklahoma St. @ Texas A&M Colorado @ Kansas St. @ Kansas

TEXAS A&M

@ Texas Tech Baylor @ Oklahoma Oklahoma St. Texas Kansas @ Missouri @ Nebraska

@ Nebraska

OKLAHOMA ST. @ Texas A&M **Texas Tech**

@ lowa St. Colorado Missouri

TEXAS

@ Texas

Baylor

@ Texas Tech

Oklahoma St.

Texas A&M

Kansas St.

@ Kansas

@ Nebraska

@ Texas A&M @ Oklahoma St. @ Baylor **Texas Tech** Oklahoma Colorado Kansas @ Missouri

OKLAHOMA

1999 - 2003 - 2007

TEXAS TECH @ Baylor @ Texas @ Oklahoma St. Oklahoma Texas A&M Colorado lowa St. @ Missouri

OKLAHOMA ST.

@ Oklahoma @ Texas A&M @ Baylor Texas **Texas Tech** @ Nebraska Kansas Kansas St.

OKLAHOMA

@ Texas @ Texas Tech Baylor Oklahoma St. Texas A&M @ Colorado Missouri @ Iowa St.

TEXAS

@ Texas A&M @ Oklahoma St. @ Baylor **Texas Tech** Oklahoma @ Iowa St. Kansas St. Nehraska

ear the end of practice one day after Nebraska's 31-0 win over West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic, Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride asked junior middle linebacker Phil Ellis if he would like to have a black practice jersey.

"I'd love to have one," Ellis said as he ran onto the field with the kickoff team. Ellis was wearing the yellow practice jersey of a second-

team defender.

"I thought he was kidding," Ellis recalls.

The next day, Ellis found a black practice jersey in his locker. "It was exciting," he said. "I think I had a smile the whole practice (that day). I probably didn't even know what I was doing." After three years, he had become a Black Shirt.

Senior Terry Connealy, a co-captain and defensive tackle, also has a vivid recollection of the day he found a black practice jersey in his locker. It was the week after the Cornhuskers' 29-14 loss at Washington. Connealy, a redshirt sophomore at the time, says, "I'd had a pretty good season to that point. But I wasn't expecting it (the black jersey). It was huge for me."

They are really nothing more than black mesh pullover jerseys for differentiating defensive units during Nebraska's practices. But they have taken on a special significance for those who wear them, as well as for many who have never even seen them. The Cornhuskers' Black Shirt defensive tradition is now reinforced by T-shirts, caps, sweatshirts and other paraphernalia.

Sometimes, it's expressed as two words: Black Shirts. It's always capitalized as a proper name. The Black Shirts are synonymous with Nebraska's defense. And not just in the Big Eight region. A high school coach in New Jersey now calls his defense the Black Shirts, according to McBride.

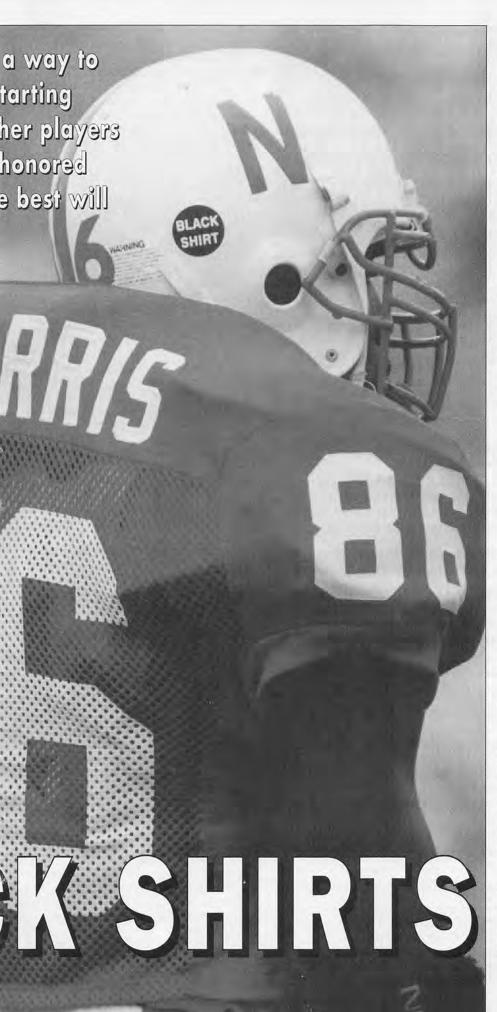
"It's something a lot of people know around the country," he said. "It's a good tradition, one that a lot of schools don't have. It's been going on for 20 years, or more. It's not just the present. It's the past. It gives us a title, rather than just 'the defense.' And the thing that's good about it is, everybody on the defense is a Black Shirt in some way."

As with any tradition, the Black Shirt designation has evolved from a vaguely defined beginning that even those for whom a Black Shirt has so much meaning probably couldn't pinpoint. First-team defenders wear black practice jerseys. And the second-team defense wears yellow jerseys. "That's all I know," Connealy said. "I don't know where it started,

Joining the defensive elite by earning a Black Shirt this season, linebacker Phil Ellis (41) was motivated to take his game even further.







or why. I don't know the long story."

McBride's guess is that the Black Shirt tradition began with Monte Kiffin, the defensive coordinator on Tom Osborne's first staff of assistants, after he spent four seasons as Bob Devaney's defensive line coach. Osborne says the tradition probably even pre-dates his appointment as head coach. "It wasn't anything planned," Osborne added.

Or anything dramatic. "We just put different-colored jerseys on the

defense," he said.

In addition to the black and yellow practice jerseys, there were green jerseys for the third-team defensive players. The fourth-team defenders wore white, without colored pullovers. Traditionally, offensive players have worn red mesh pullovers during practice. Green pullovers now are given to offensive players, such as quarterbacks, who need to be protected from contact in practice. Defenders are to avoid tackling players wearing green.

"As time went on, it (practice jersey color) had significance, I guess," said Osborne. By the time McBride arrived from Wisconsin to become the defensive line coach in 1977, the designation "Black Shirt" was gaining acceptance, and popularity.

Now, "people use it as a starting point to talk about the defense," said McBride, who replaced Lance Van Zandt as defensive coordinator in 1982. "They say, 'The Black Shirts did a good job or a bad job.' We feel it's a big part of the defense."

Ed Stewart, a senior co-captain and linebacker, doesn't remember the specifics of when he found a black practice jersey in his locker. But it was a big deal. "Definitely," he said. "When I first got here, I saw the Black Shirt posters. I always knew I wanted to get one of those."

Unlike Connealy, from Hyannis, and Ellis, from Grand Island, Stewart isn't a native Nebraskan. He was recruited from Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago. Many out-of-state recruits "don't know anything about it (Black Shirt tradition) until they get here," McBride said. "It's probably more meaningful to the players from the state."

Cornerback Barron Miles, from Roselle, N.J., said that on the day he got a black practice jersey, "I thought: 'Hey, I'm finally part of the Black Shirts now.' Broderick Thomas, all those guys wore Black Shirts. The Black Shirts are the top. You don't want to be at practice



"When I first got here, I saw the Black Shirts posters. I always knew I wanted to get one of those (a Black Shirt)."

Linebacker Ed Stewart

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wearing a white or a yellow jersey."

To be a Black Shirt is to share in a tradition that includes defensive All-Americans such as Thomas, Trev Alberts, Travis Hill, Kenny Walker, Neil Smith, Danny Noonan and Jim Skow in recent seasons, as well as pre-Osborne defensive All-Americans including Willie Harper, Rich Glover and Larry Jacobson.

Although Nebraska's national reputation is based on its high-scoring, run-oriented offense, the Cornhusker defense has its own tradition of success. Nine times during Osborne's tenure as head coach, Nebraska has led the Big Eight in total defense. In 1984, the Cornhuskers led the nation in total defense. In 1986, they ranked second, and in 1980, third. In seven of the last 10 seasons, Nebraska has ranked in the top 10 nationally in total defense.

Last season, the first with a 4-3 base alignment, the Cornhuskers led the Big Eight in total defense, rushing defense, pass defense and scoring defense. "I think we regained some respect," Miles said.

The black practice jerseys aren't distributed indiscriminately. Sometimes, only 11 players have had them. And sometimes, players have had to trade a black for a yellow one after being demoted. Such demotions, however, are rare.

Ellis was surprised when he got his Black Shirt, in part because Doug Colman already had one. Colman was above him on the depth chart. "He's a great linebacker," Ellis said. "Usually, only one guy (at a particular position) has a Black Shirt." But he and Colman both had them.

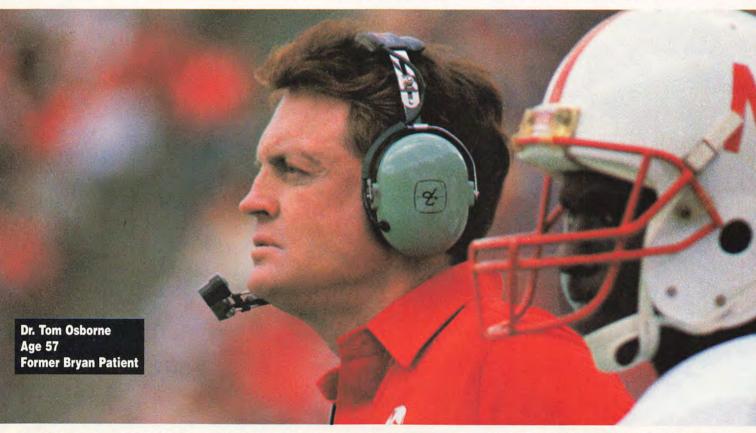
"I was just happy the coaches thought I was good enough to be a starter, to be a Black Shirt," said Ellis. The Black Shirt "showed they had confidence in me."

Having a Black Shirt not only certifies defenders, it motivates them, according to Ellis. "Once you have a Black Shirt, I think, you feel like you have to pick it up a notch. It's exciting. I was really pumped. It's a goal when you come here as a defensive player. You see the Black Shirts, and it's like: 'I want one of those.' That's why I was so surprised."

Surprised, and elated. "It's a great tradition here, being a Black Shirt," Ellis said. "To be considered a starter on Nebraska's defense, that's big. For me it is, anyway."

And for just about anyone who has worn a Black Shirt, whenever the tradition began.

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Tom Osborne appreciates the value of leadership. Whether he's working to direct his team down the field or helping to shape



young lives, he knows people turn to a leader when challenges arise. That's why the coach chose Bryan when he was faced with a potentially serious heart condition.

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Memorial Hospital,

Coach Osborne is still providing his brand of leadership both on and off the field.



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ALASHBACK

Nebraska 21, Kansas 20

November 6, 1993 Memorial Stadium • Lawrence, Kan.

All's well that ends well. And so it was again for the Nebraska football team as they won their ninth consecutive game, 21-20, when Kansas failed on a two-point conversion attempt with 52 seconds remaining.

With freshman tailback June Henley accounting for most of the yardage, Kansas had run at Nebraska behind a big offensive line. The Jayhawks finished with 179 rushing yards, including 148 on 37 carries by Henley.

Kansas had driven 80 yards on 17 plays, and used up 7:28 on the clock, to cut the deficit to 21-20. Henley carried 13 times, the last for a 3-yard gain and the touchdown.

Anticipating a run to the outside for the two points, the Huskers lined up for a two-man blitz — one from the right, the other from the left. That way, Nebraska would be positioned to stop the run or apply pressure on a pass.

KU quarterback Asheiki Preston rolled out in the direction away from the two blitzing defenders, who had to pursue him from the back side. Preston pulled up and, with defensive tackle Kevin Ramaekers in hot pursuit, passed into the end zone.

His intended receiver was Ashaundai Smith. The ball fell short. Nebraska missed early opportunities to put the Jayhawks away but recorded its fourth come-from-behind victory on the season. KU scored first, but NU answered with a four-yard rushing touch-

KU	NU
19	19
13	14
5	4
1	1
50	52
179	297
118	71
19	12
13	7
0	1
69	64
297	368
4.3	5.8
30:19	29:41
	19 13 5 1 50 179 118 19 13 0 69 297 4.3

down by Calvin Jones and an eight-yard pass from Tommie Frazier to Gerald Armstrong. The Huskers were moving the ball decisively and looked to go into halftime with a comfortable 21-7 lead as quarterback Brook Berringer took the reins of the Husker attack while Frazier rested a sore shoulder.

But after marching 77 yards to the KU six-yard line, Berringer threw an interception in the end zone.

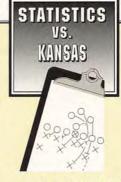
Kansas played Nebraska's game of ball control and used up 10:08 in the third quarter,

scoring with 1:10 remaining to tie the game at 14-14.

Jones racked up 195 yards, including 96 in the fourth quarter, despite fighting a virus all week. He proved to be the difference in the

game as NU totaled 368 total yards — 287 rushing — to Kansas' 297.

Linebacker Mike Anderson led the Black Shirts with 12 tackles, while Trev Alberts had 11. ■



RUSHING LEADERS

		Ditte	,,,,,		
Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Jones	29	195	6.7	51	1
Frazier	9	35	3.8	15	0
Benning	4	26	6.5	11	0
Schlesinger	3	18	6.0	12	0

KANSAS

ı	Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg	Long	TD
١	Henley	37	148	4.0	15	1
ı	Preston	7	16	2.2	6	1
	Player Henley Preston Good	5	13	2.5	4	0

PASSING LEADERS NEBRASKA

Player	Att./Co	mp. Int.	Yds.	TD
Frazier	7/4	0	31	2
Berringer	5/3	1	40	0

KANSAS						
<u>Player</u> Preston	Att./Comp	.Int.	Yds.	TD		
Preston	19/13	0	118	1		

RECEIVING LEADERS NEBRASKA

Player	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Armstrong	2	18	10	1
Dixon	1	16	16	0

KANSAS

Player	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Ballard	4	39	14	0
Chandler	1	30	30	1

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Ī	inal
Nebraska	7	7	0	7	_	21
Kansas	7	0	7	6	_	20



Kansas vs Nebraska

With bowl bid in the balance, Jayhawks need win in Lincoln

November 5, 1994 • 1:00 p.m. (CDT) • Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.

Harly in the season, Kansas talked about finally joining the Big Three in the Big Eight Conference. After a slow start, the Jayhawks hope to salvage the season by finishing in the upper half of the league and being invited to a bowl game. Any bowl game.

After opening the year with two wins — against Houston and Michigan State — the Jayhawks lost three of their next five games, including Big Eight games against Kansas State and Oklahoma.

And it doesn't get any easier for Kansas. After playing host to Oklahoma State, the Jayhawks travel to Lincoln to play Nebraska on Nov. 5 in a 1 p.m. game at Memorial Stadium. Kansas hasn't beaten Nebraska since 1968. The following week, Kansas plays host to Colorado.

"I guess you could say it has been a frustrating season to a certain extent," Kansas tailback J.T. Levine said. "I think last week was the topper by losing that way (to Oklahoma). I think we've done good, we've come every week, we've tried to prepare hard to win every game. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. We won the ones that we played good in and were successful and sometimes we've come up short."

1994 KANSAS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Overall/Conf.) — 5-3/2-2 Sept. 1 @ Houston W, 35-13 Sept. 10 Michigan St. W, 17-10 Sept. 17 @ Tex. Christian L, 31-21 Sept. 24 Ala.-Birming. W, 72-0 Oct. 6 Kansas St. L, 21-13 Oct. 15 @ lowa St. W, 41-23 Oct. 22 Oklahoma L. 20-17 Oct. 29 Oklahoma St. W, 24-14 Nov. 5 @ Nebraska 1 p.m. Nov. 12 Colorado 1 p.m. 1 p.m. Nov. 19 @ Missouri



With defenses keying on the Jayhawk running game, quarterback Asheiki Preston has been able to open up the passing attack.

The game against Oklahoma points out Levine's frustrations. The Sooners rallied late in the game to squeak out a 20-17 win.

Still, the Jayhawks are looking at their opportunity against Nebraska and Colorado in a positive manner.

"Right now, we're at a clutch point and I think these next few games are going to prove the character of this team," kicker Jeff McCord said. "Not only is it going to make us a better football team, but it is going to make us better men.

"We are at a critical point but, hey, we've still got several games left and there is no reason that we should be counted out."

Part of Kansas' problem is its lack of running game, especially against conference rivals. Kansas still ranks ninth nationally in rushing offense, averaging 258.6 yards per game, but against Oklahoma could manage just 115 yards on the ground. The Jayhawks had similar problems against Kansas State.

Kansas Coach Glen Mason, in an effort to give the ground game a

boost, plans to use up to four players at tailback.

Levine leads the team in rushing, averaging 47 yards per game. His backup, Mark Sanders, gains 46 yards a pop. Third-teamer Eric Vann could also see more playing time during the next few weeks.

Sophomore June Henley, who rushed for more than 1,100 yards last year, has been hampered by injuries. He gained 36 yards on 12 carries against the Sooners.

"We've got four players but it doesn't seem like we're getting the total production out of those people," Mason said. "Let's be quite frank, people are defending the run much stronger against us than maybe they traditionally have. They have more respect even now for our run than in the past."

When Kansas decides to go to its passing game, Asheiki Preston has performed well. The senior has completed 58-of-98 passes for 757 yards through seven games, and ranks 29th in the country in passing efficiency. Preston has also picked up another 143 yards on the ground.

Receiver Hosea Friday, wingback George White and tight end Brent Willeford are Preston's primary targets in the Jayhawk passing game.

Up front, Kansas nearly matches Nebraska pound for pound. Guard John Jones (a 6-foot-1, 300 pound senior) and tackle Mark Allison (6-3, 295), are on the right side, Jared Smith is a 260-pound center and tackle Scott Whittaker (6-6, 295) and guard Hessley Hempstead (6-1, 295) start on the left.

Recently, Kansas suffered a blow defensively when cornerback Tony Blevins injured a knee during practice and will probably miss the rest of the year. Blevins, a sophomore, started the first seven games this year for the Jayhawks.

"It was a non-contact drill and someone just kind of slipped and stumbled into him," Mason said of Blevins' injury. "We've got to make an adjustment, obviously."

With Blevins out, freshman Charles Davis moves up the depth chart to take over the starting assign-

But Kansas has two other stars in the secondary. Free safety Kwamie

HUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

5-8 170 Jr

5-9 180 So

6-5 315 Sr

6-4 290 Sr

5-10 210 Jr

6-0 220 So

5-11 205 So

5-9 160 Sr

5-11 210 Jr

240 Jr

6-3

Reggie Baul

Brendan Holbein

Rob Zatechka

Brady Caskey

Jeff Makovicka

Lawrence Phillips Damon Benning

Abdul Muhammad

Clester Johnson

SE 7

LT 56

5

22

33

IB

WB 27

MLB 46 Lassiter recorded two interceptions and cornerback Dorian Brew is second in the nation in punt returns, averaging 16.2 yards per attempt. Gerald McBurrows starts at strong safety.

The Jayhawk 4-3 defense plays tough against the run, giving up on average 110.7 yards per game. Ends Harold Harris and Steve Harvey and tackles Sylvester Wright and Darnell Britt are the reasons why Kansas is tough up front.

Kansas has three talented linebackers in senior Don Davis and juniors Ronnie Ward and Keith

The Jayhawks have forced 18 turnovers in seven games, best in the Big Eight and ninth best nationally. At the same time, the Kansas offense has given up the ball eight times.

Kicker McCord, a freshman, has kicked five of eight field goal attempts this season, and ranks fifth in the Big Eight in scoring, averaging 5.86 points per game.

JAYHAWK 2-DEEP **OFFENSE**

		011 -110-			
WR	13	Hosea Friday	6-1	200	So
1000	1	Isaac Byrd	6-2	180	So
TE	91	Brent Willeford	6-3	255	Sr
	89	Jim Moore	6-3	235	So
LT	54	Rod Jones	6-4	300	Jr
0.00	71	Derrick Chandler	6-7	298	Fr
LG	66	Hessley Hempstead	6-1	295	Sr
	62	Chris Banks	6-2	280	Jr
C	65	Jared Smith	6-1	260	So
100	55	Jim Stiebel	6-4	265	So
RG	69	John Jones	6-1	300	So
	75	Tony Zell	6-4	285	Fr
RT	79	Scott Whittaker	6-6	295	So
	67	Derek Brown	6-8	275	Sr
QB	9	Asheiki Preston	5-11	185	Sr
	15	Mark Williams	6-2	175	Jr
TB	22	L.T. Levine	5-10	210	Jr
	34	Mark Sanders	6-0	212	So
FB	32	Chris Powell	5-9	220	Sr
	33	Costello Good	6-1	212	Sr
WB	2	George White	5-10	175	Sr
600	88	Derek Irvin	5-9	170	Fr
PK	36	Jeff McCord	5-9	220	Fr

DEFENSE

5-11 205 Sr

DE 29 Harold Harris

	59	Derek Fairchild	6-1	205	Jr
DT	97	Sylvester Wright	6-2	260	Sr
	92	Troy Harper	6-4	265	Jr
DT	94	Darnell Britt	6-1	260	Sr
	70	Brett McGraw	6-1	275	Fr
DE	52	Steve Harvey	6-3	230	Sr
	57	Kevin Kopp	6-4	225	So
OLB	39	Don Davis	6-1	227	Sr
	30	Eric Galbreath	6-1	195	So
MLB	46	Ronnie Ward	6-0	220	Jr
	38	Jason Thoren	6-2	215	Fr
OLB	16	Keith Rodgers	5-11	200	Jr
	50	Terence Sullivan	6-0	220	Sr
CB	11	Charles Davis	6-0	190	Fr
	23	Jason Harris	6-1	175	Fr
FS	8	Kwamie Lassiter	5-11	175	Sr
	10	Thad Warren	6-0	195	Jr
SS	3	Gerald McBurrows	5-11	188	Sr
	4	Marlin Blakeney	5-11	192	Jr
CB	17	Dorian Brew	5-10	175	Jr
	23	Jason Harris	6-1	160	Fr
P	19	Darrin Simmons	6-1	205	Jr

 Chris Fowler, ESPN: Getting the Huskers after Colorado is the best possible scenario for Kansas.

This one is not quite as close as last year. Nebraska 27, Kansas 20.

 Ed Littler, KHAS TV, Hastings: Nebraska has too much power for the Jayhawks, although Kansas, with a healthy Asheiki Preston at quarterback and a strong tailback, should put some points on the board. Nebraska, with the running of Phillips, Benning and Childs, should strike for numerous scores. Brook Berringer, who seems to be improving every week, should be able to pass against the Jayhawks, as he has in recent games.

Nebraska 35, Kansas 17.

 Berk Brown, Fremont Tribune: Nebraska can't afford an emotional letdown after the Colorado game, and they shouldn't, considering this game is in Lincoln. Kansas' program has come a long way in recent years, but it still hasn't reached the level of the elite in the Big Eight. Lawrence Phillips should be able to pad his rushing numbers in this, the Huskers' final home game. Nebraska rolls. **Nebraska** 42, Kansas 10.

Jack Donoghue,

Holdredge Daily Citizen. Of course, Kansas made it really close last year. The Jayhawks haven't had a really strong season, but they're a middle-of-thepack team that if things start going their way it could be an interesting ballgame. A lot depends on how Nebraska comes off the Colorado game. Win or lose against the Buffs, whatever the Huskers' emotions, they may be out of sorts the first half. But they should get rolling in the second half and put up some points.

Nebraska 38, Kansas 14.

ľ	LG	76	Joel Wilks	6-3	280	Sr	
l		67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	290	Fr	
þ	C	54	Aaron Graham	6-3	280	Jr	
1	MA	51	Bill Humphrey	6-2	265	Sr	
Ì	RG	66	Brenden Stai	6-4	300	Sr	
1	1400	65	Bryan Pruitt	6-1	255	Jr	
۱	RT	72	Zach Wiegert	6-5	300	Sr	
ı		70	Eric Anderson	6-4	290	Fr	
ı	TE	85	Matt Shaw	6-3	235	Sr	
ı	1	88	Eric Alford	6-2	225	Sr	
ı	QB	18	Brook Berringer	6-4	210	Jr	
ı		11	Matt Turman	5-11	165	So	
ı	EB	40	Con Schloeinger	6.0	220	Cr	

PK 6 Darin Erstad 6-2 195 So DEFENSE DT 55 Christian Peter 6-2 285 Jr Scott Saltsman 6-2 255 So 99 6-5 275 Sr Terry Connealy Jason Pesterfield 57 6-3 260 Sr LOLB 86 6-2 225 Sr Dwavne Harris 6-2 250 So 93 Jared Tomich ROLB 84 Donta Jones 6-2 220 Sr 98 Grant Wistrom 6-5 230 Fr SAM 4 Troy Dumas 6-4 220 Sr 45 Clint Brown 6-1 215 Sr

225 Jr Phil Ellis 6-2 WLB 32 Ed Stewart 215 Sr Ryan Terwilliger 91 6-5 220 So LCB 14 Barron Miles 5-8 165 Sr Darren Schmadeke 5-8 180 Jr 37 **RCB** Tyrone Williams 8 6-0 185 Jr Leslie Dennis

Doug Colman

5-8 165 Fr ROV 29 Kareem Moss 5-10 190 Sr #5 Octavious McFarlin 6-0 180 Fr FS 9 Tony Veland 6-2 200 Jr 16 Eric Stokes 5-11 175 6 Darin Erstad 6-2 195 So

Depth charts were compiled October 30. # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

Buffs' Woes Continue Against Huskers

LINCOLN, Neb. — All for one. One for all.

"It's just like a bunch of kids on the corner who love each other and care about each other," Charlie McBride said of Nebraska's defensive effort following the Cornhuskers' 24-7 victory against Colorado.

McBride, of course, is Nebraska's defensive coordinator. And

he couldn't have been more proud.

"This is one of the biggest wins for me," he said. "But the

credit goes to the players."

Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne shared that opinion. "The defense did a tremendous job," he said. It was the "most consistent element of the ballgame. To hold Colorado to seven points is

pretty significant."

Colorado came to Memorial Stadium, for the 200th consecutive sellout in Nebraska's continuing NCAA record streak, with a high-powered offense that was being compared to Nebraska's 1983 "Scoring Explosion" team. The 1983 Cornhuskers had "the

triplets": Mike Rozier, Irving Fryar and Turner Gill. Their counterparts in Colorado's version are Rashaan Salaam, Michael Westbrook and Kordell Stewart.

The Buffaloes ranked second in the nation in total offense, averaging 502.9 yards per game, and they ranked fourth in both scoring (40.3 points) and rushing offense (295.4 yards).

Salaam, a junior, went into the game as the nation's leading rusher, averaging 179.4

Stewart was fifth nationally in passing and 10th in total offense.

The "scariest" statistic, however, was Colorado's success rate on third down, according to McBride. The Buffaloes had converted nearly 50 percent on third down (39-82).

Through seven consecutive victories, Colorado was an offensive machine. "They have a great offense," said Christian Peter, a Cornhusker defensive tackle. "They've been rolling all over people."

On this particular day, past tense was appropriate.

"The defense, I thought, did an awfully good job throughout

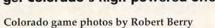
the game," Osborne said.

Salaam gained 134 yards on 22 carries, well below his average. But more significantly, he had only 38 yards during the first half, when there was still uncertainty about the direction the game was taking.

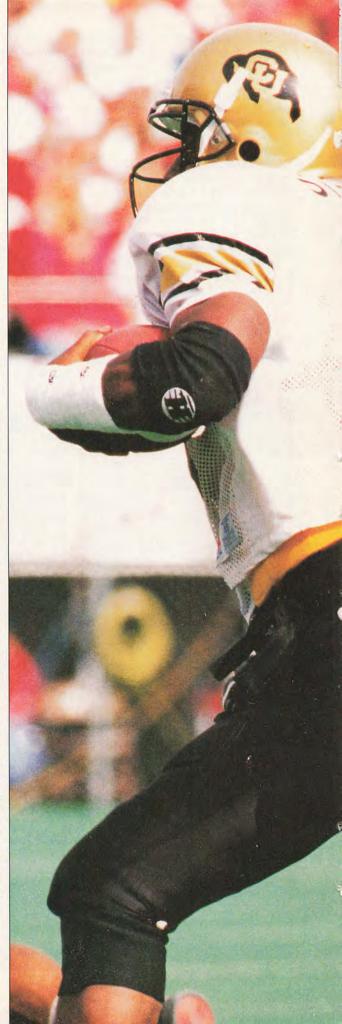
For the third year in a row, Stewart had problems dealing with the Cornhuskers. He completed 12-of-28 passes for 150 yards and managed 24 yards net on 14 carries.

"I guess he's just got some bad luck against us," Peter said.

Against Troy Dumas (4) and the Black Shirts' harassing style of defense, Kordell Stewart never had a chance to get Colorado's high-powered offense going.









"We were coming at him from all

angles."

Nebraska short-circuited the Buffaloes' option. "We were taking the pitch away and making him (Stewart) run," said Osborne.

"We were pretty well prepared," Peter said. "We go against the option

every day in practice."

Colorado finished with 314 yards, the majority in the second half. The Buffaloes came up short on all 11 of their third-down situations and were 0-for-4 on fourth-down attempts.

Nebraska's defense really never cracked. The only points it allowed followed the interception of a Brook Berringer pass at the Nebraska 36yard line. Five plays later, Salaam scored a touchdown on a 6-yard run.

By then, however, just over a minute remained in the third quarter, and the Cornhuskers led 24-0. The touchdown was largely cosmetic. "We did pretty well," Peter said.

Nebraska frustrated Stewart, by containing him with a game plan similar to the one it used in an 18-16 loss to Florida State in the 1994 Orange Bowl game. "We wanted to do the same with him we did with (Heisman Trophy winner) Charlie

Ward, squeeze it and keep him inside," McBride said.

The Cornhuskers sacked Stewart three times and kept the pressure on from the opening series. "We had a lot of people in his face," said Nebraska cornerback Barron Miles.

Stewart had nowhere to run, and often no one to whom he could throw, though Westbrook finished with six receptions for 80 yards.

Nebraska's defense got a boost from the kicking game, which kept the Buffaloes from good field position. Colorado began nine of its 13 possessions no farther out than its own 20-yard line. The Buffaloes' average possession began at the 19.

"When you're starting out with a long field against a good defense, it's

tough," Osborne said.

In contrast, Nebraska's average possession began at the 39-yard line.

The Cornhusker offense was effective particularly during the first half, when it produced 17 points, with five possessions. Of the two that ended in punts, only one was a result of Colorado's defensive play. Nebraska's first drive was halted when a center snap sailed over quarterback Brook Berringer's head for a

15-yard loss, on a first down at the Buffalo 31.

The Cornhuskers' first points came on a 14-yard touchdown run by fullback Cory Schlesinger. The scoring drive required eight plays, covered 51 yards and used up 4:10 on the clock, following a mediocre punt.

The key plays in the drive were a 9-yard pass from Berringer to tight end Mark Gilman, and an 11-yard option run by Berringer. The Cornhuskers faced only one third-down situation.

Gilman finished with four pass receptions for 46 yards. Eric Alford, also a tight end, caught five passes for 78 yards and a touchdown.

Every time Nebraska threw, it seemed like either Gilman or Alford was running down the field wide

open.

The Cornhuskers scored again on their first possession of the second quarter, driving 54 yards on 10 plays to set up a 24-yard, Tom Sieler field goal. Berringer took a 5-yard loss on an option on third-and-goal inside the 1-yard line to force the kick.

Colorado had a chance to get back into the game on its next possession.



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CORNHUSKER WATCH

OCTOBER 29, 1994

Nebraska 24, Colorado 7 Kansas St. 37, Oklahoma 20 Kansas 24, Oklahoma St. 14 Missouri 34, Iowa St. 20



NOVEMBER 5, 1994

lowa St. at Kansas St. Oklahoma St. at Colorado Kansas at Nebraska Missouri at Oklahoma

CONLCL	RENCI	E ST	ANI	DING	3
TEAM	w	L	T	PF	PA
Nebraska	4	0	0	115	23
Colorado	3	1	0	125	75
Kansas	2	2	0	95	78
Missouri	2	2	0	88	115
Kansas St.	2	2	0	85	85
Oklahoma	2	2	0	81	105
lowa St.	0	3	1	94	126
Oklahoma St.	0	3	1	63	111
OVER	ALL S	STAP	IDII	NGS	
					-
TEAM	w	L	T	PF	PA
TEAM Nebraska	W 9	L 0	T 0	PF 349	113
TEAM Nebraska Colorado	W 9 7	L 0 1	T 0 0	PF 349 289	113
TEAM Nebraska Colorado Kansas St.	W 9 7 5	L 0 1 2	T 0 0 0 0	PF 349 289 181	113 162 109
TEAM Nebraska Colorado Kansas St. Kansas	W 9 7 5 5	L 0 1 2 3	T 0 0 0 0 0	PF 349 289 181 240	113 162 109 132
TEAM Nebraska Colorado Kansas St. Kansas Oklahoma	W 9 7 5 5 4	L 0 1 2 3 4	T 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	PF 349 289 181 240 156	113 162 109 132 198
TEAM Nebraska Colorado Kansas St. Kansas Oklahoma Oklahoma St.	W 9 7 5 5 4 3	L 0 1 2 3 4 4	T 0 0 0 0 0 0 1	PF 349 289 181 240 156 157	113 162 109 132 198 184
TEAM Nebraska Colorado Kansas St. Kansas Oklahoma	W 9 7 5 5 4	L 0 1 2 3 4	T 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	PF 349 289 181 240 156	113 162 109 132 198

The Buffaloes moved quickly down the field on the ground but were slowed by an incomplete pass on first down at the Nebraska 28. After Dwayne Harris sacked Stewart for a 1-yard loss on third down, Neil Voskeritchian attempted a 43-yard field goal.

Voskeritchian's kick was short, and the Buffaloes didn't threaten again until the middle of the third quarter.

Nebraska took over and drove 73 yards on nine plays, the last a 2-yard

touchdown run by Clinton Childs to take a 17-0 lead at halftime. The third scoring drive consumed nearly four minutes and left Colorado only 36 seconds with which to work.

The Cornhuskers controlled the ball, finishing with a significant edge in time of possession, 21:27 to 8:33 in the first half, 38:24 to 21:36 total.

Nebraska completed its scoring on its first possession of the second half, going 69 yards on seven plays, capped by a 30-yard touchdown pass from Berringer to Alford. The Cornhuskers controlled the line of scrimmage much of the game. "The offensive line, they exploded on the defense," said Schlesinger, who did some exploding of his own.

It was his block on Colorado linebacker Ted Johnson that opened the way to a 14-yard run for Lawrence Phillips on the drive that produced Sieler's field goal.

Phillips, who entered the game as the nation's third-leading rusher, finished with 86 yards on 22 carries. He would have broken the school record for consecutive 100-yard rushing games to start a season, but a mishandled pitchout midway through the fourth quarter cost him 17 yards.

He had gone over 100 yards midway through the third quarter. Even so, he has 1,319 rushing yards for the season, fifth-best in school history.

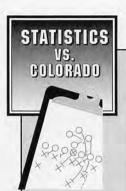
Such individual accomplishments were of secondary concern, however.

"The intangible things make great teams," said McBride.

Intangibles, the kicking game, and an aggressive defense, one capable of stopping the run. There's no great secret to playing defense the way the Cornhuskers did against Colorado.

Tom Osborne surprised the Buffs by utilizing Mark Gilman (87) and the other tight ends on isolation plays.





OCTOBER 29, 1994

SCORE BY QUARTERS

 TEAM
 1
 2
 3
 4
 Final

 Nebraska
 7
 10
 7
 0
 —
 24

 Colorado
 0
 0
 7
 0
 —
 7

TEAM ST	DEFENSIVE LEADERS						
First Downs	CU	NU			BRASK	Α	
First Downs	18	20		Tac	kles		
Rushing	10	12	Player	Solo	Asst.	Sacks	Int.
Passing	6	7	Dumas	7	4	0	0
Penalty	2	1	Peter	1	6	.5	0
Rushing Attempts	37	53	Jones	1	6	1	0
Yards Gained Rushing	187	247	Williams Stewart	5	1	0	0
Yards Lost Rushing	32	44	Colman	2	4	0	0
Net yards rushing	155	203	Miles	3	2	0	0
Net yards passing	159	142	Connealy	2 2	3	.5	0
Passes attempted	30	17	Moss		2 4	0	0
Passes completed	13	12	Ellis	0 2	4	0	0
Had intercepted	0	12	Veland	2	1	0	0
	2.34	70		001	ODAD	_	
Total plays	67	70	COLORADO				
Total net yards	314	345		- 3 - 3	kles		
Avg. gain per play	4.7	4.9	Player		Asst.	Sacks	int.
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0	Russell		13	0	0
Penalties-yards	4-30	6-41	Johnson		10	0	0
Punts-yards	6-230	6-230	Cunningham	5	2	0	0
Avg. per punt	38.3	38.3	Jones Hudson	4 2	3	0	0
			Hicks	0	6	0	0
Possession time	21:36	38:24	Clavelle			0	0
Third Down Efficiency	0-11	7-16	Rosga	1	3	0	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

		BRAS					2000	BRASI		
Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD	Player	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Phillips	25	86	3.4	14	0	Alford	5	78	30	1
Schlesinger	8	65	8.1	29	1	Gilman	4	46	16	0
Makovicka	3	32	10.7	25	0	Muhammad	2	14	12	0
Berringer	7	19	2.7	11	0	Phillips	1	4	4	0
Childs	5	14	2.8	4	1		CO	LORA	DO	
Muhammad	1	1	1.0	1	0	Player	No.	Yds.	Long	TD
Benning	3	1	.03	1	0	Westbrook	6	80	22	0
	M	ISSOL	JRI			Carruth	2	28	19	0
Player	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD	Salaam	2	24	19	0
Salaam	22	134	6.1	41	1	Lepsis	2	18	14	0
Stewart	14	24	1.7	13	0	Savoy	1	9	9	0
Troutman	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0					
	100	ASSIN	T-70				-	D GO	1747 C	
and the same		BRAS		1000		_		BRAS		
Player		Comp	.Int.	Yds.	TD	Player	Att.	Comp		ong
Berringer	17/1 CO	2 LORA	1 ADO	142	1	Sieler	CO	1 LORA	DO 24	1
Player	Att./	Comp	.Int.	Yds.	TD	Player	Att.	Comp	o. Lo	ong
Stewart	28/1	2	0	150	0	Voskeritchia	n 0	1	Non	е
Detmer	2/1		0	9	0					

1994 SEASON STATS

(9 GAMES)

INDIVIDUAL	STATISTICS
	DUCHING

-					
G	A	tt.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
9	209		1,319	146.5	12
9	4	49		41.3	3
9	5	3	364	40.4	5
9	5	7	306	34.0	4
9	4	0	296	32.8	1
4	3	3	248	62.0	6
9	4	2	188	20.8	5
8	1	0	73	9.1	0
	P	ASS	ING		
G	C	-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
9	57-9	92-3	.620	669	7
6	6-1	2-0	.500	80	0
4	19-4	14-2	.431	273	4
	REC	EIV	ING		
G	No.	Yds.	YP	C YPC	Tds.
8	10	223	22	2.3 27.	9 4
9	16	210	13	3.1 23.	3 1
8	10	140	14	.0 20.	0 2
9	11	97	8	3.8 10.	7 0
9	13	116	8	3.9 12.	8 1
8	7	76	10	0.8 7.	6 2
	DE	FEN	SE		
G	UT	AT	П	Int.	Sacks
9	30	42	72	0	1
9	20	29	49	0	6.0
8	24	23	47	1	0
9	26	17	43	1	1
9	15	27	42	0	1
9	14	23	36	0	1
9	12	22	34	0	3
9	20	11	31	3	0
8	24	5	29	2	0
9	10	16	26	0	3.5
9	6	20	26	0	0
9	11	16	25	0	4
8	7	15	22	0	3
9	12	9	21	0	1
9	12	8	20	2	0
9	8	8	16	0	0
9					
9	9	5	14	0	3
	9 9 9 4 9 8 G 9 6 4 G 8 9 8 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 9 8 9 9 9 9 9 8 9	9 4 9 5 9 5 9 4 4 3 9 4 8 1 1 PP 6 6 6-1 4 19-4 REC 6 No. 8 10 9 11 9 13 8 7 PE 6 UT 9 30 9 20 8 24 9 26 9 15 9 14 9 12 9 20 8 24 9 10 9 6 9 11 8 7 9 12	9 49 9 53 9 57 9 40 4 33 9 42 8 10 PASSI 6 C-A-I 9 57-92-3 6 6-12-0 4 19-44-2 RECEIV G No. Yds. 8 10 223 9 16 210 8 10 140 9 11 97 9 13 116 8 7 76 DEFEN G UT AT 9 30 42 9 20 29 8 24 23 9 26 17 9 15 27 9 14 23 9 12 22 9 20 11 8 24 5 9 10 16 9 6 20 9 11 16 8 7 15 9 12 9	9 49 372 9 53 364 9 57 306 9 40 296 4 33 248 8 10 73 PASSING G C-A-I Pct. 9 57-92-3 .620 6 6-12-0 .500 4 19-44-2 .431 RECEIVING G No. Yds. YP 8 10 223 22 19 16 210 13 8 10 140 14 9 11 97 6 8 10 223 22 19 16 210 16 8 7 76 10 DEFENSE G UT AT TT 9 30 42 72 9 20 29 49 8 24 23 47 9 26 17 43 9 15 27 42 9 14 23 36 9 12 22 34 9 20 11 31 8 24 5 29 9 10 16 26 9 6 20 26 9 11 16 25 8 7 15 22 9 12 9 21	9 49 372 41.3 9 53 364 40.4 9 57 306 34.0 9 40 296 32.8 4 33 248 62.0 9 42 188 20.8 8 10 73 9.1 PASSING G C-A-I Pct. Yds. 9 57-92-3 .620 669 6 6-12-0 .500 80 4 19-44-2 431 273 RECEIVING G No. Yds. YPC YPC 8 10 223 22.3 27. 19 16 210 13.1 23. 8 10 140 14.0 20. 9 11 97 8.8 10. 9 11 197 8.8 10. 9 11 197 8.8 10. 9 11 197 8.8 10. 9 11 197 8.8 10. 9 11 10 10.8 7. DEFENSE G UT AT IT Int. 9 30 42 72 0 9 20 29 49 0 8 24 23 47 1 9 26 17 43 1 9 15 27 42 0 9 20 29 49 0 8 24 23 47 1 9 26 17 43 1 9 15 27 42 0 9 14 23 36 0 9 12 22 34 0 9 20 11 31 3 8 24 5 29 2 9 10 16 26 0 9 6 20 26 0 9 11 16 25 0 9 6 20 26 0 9 11 16 25 0 9 6 7 15 22 0 9 12 9 21 0 9 12 9 21 0 9 12 9 21 0

I EAM SI	AIISI	NU		OPP		
Total Offer	sive Ya	4,3	51	2,444		
Net Rushin	g Yards	3,3	23	640		
Passing Ya	ırds		1,0	28	1,804	
Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOT	
NU	64	112	93	80	349	
Орр	17	23	37	36	113	

1994 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record — 9-0

	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
Aug. 28	vs. W. Virginia	W, 31-0
Sept. 8	@ Texas Tech	W, 42-16
Sept. 17	UCLA	W, 49-21
Sept. 24	Pacific	W, 70-21
Oct. 1	Wyoming	W, 42-32
Oct. 8	Oklahoma St.	W, 32-3
Oct. 15	@ Kansas St.	W, 17-6
Oct. 22	@ Missouri	W, 42-7
Oct. 29	Colorado	W, 24-7
Nov. 5	Kansas	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 12	@ Iowa St.	1:00 p.m.
Nov. 25	@ Oklahoma	1:30 p.m.



No. 1 Can Wait

Nebraska wants to avoid poll banter, content to finish the season one game at a time

By MIKE BABCOCK

Tebraska, even without Tommie Frazier, can still be Nebraska.

That was never more apparent than during the Cornhuskers' decisive 24-7 victory against Colorado.

It was supposed to be the matchup of the season, No. 2 Nebraska against No. 3 Colorado, or vice-versa, depending on your poll preference.

ABC televised the game for a national audience. The ESPN cable TV network broadcast its Game Day program from Lincoln for the second time this season. CNN was in town most of the week. The Nebraska sports information office issued 538 press credentials, the most since the 1987 Oklahoma game.

However, the game itself didn't match the hype. That's because the Cornhuskers were clearly superior on this particular day, even though Frazier's participation amounted to leading the team from the locker room, playing catch during pre-game warmups and watching on the sideline in street clothes during the game.

"We're still Nebraska. We're still the same defense," Cornhusker cornerback Barron Miles said.

And, for those who might have been wondering the last two weeks in victories against Kansas State and Missouri, the same offense.

Coach Tom Osborne took the option off the shelf and showed the Buffaloes how devastating it can be.

"If we can run the full gamut of our offense, we're very difficult to stop," said Ron Brown, the Cornhusker receivers coach. "We have a tremendous run offense; it's very sophisticated."

Nebraska took control with the option during the first half, then left preservation of victory No. 9 up to the defense. "We were ready for anything they threw at us," Miles said.

Or ran, he might have added.

The Cornhuskers slowed down markedly in the second half. "I think we started trying a little too hard," fullback Cory Schlesinger said.

Schlesinger, who rushed for 65 yards and scored Nebraska's first touchdown on a 14-yard run with 5:47 left in the first quarter, was an integral part of the attack.

So was Jeff Mackovicka, his backup who gained 32 yards on three carries. The fullbacks had Nebraska's two longest runs from scrimmage, 29 yards by Schlesinger and 25 by Mackovicka.

The Cornhuskers were confident

"We were labeled underdogs. We don't take that lightly, especially at home."

- Brook Berringer

going into the game because "we knew this week we had everything back in place (on offense)," Schlesinger said.

"We had the options, the passing and up the middle."

In the victories against Kansas State and Missouri, the options, in particular, were missing.

The reason was Berringer, whom Osborne attempted to protect following the collapse of a lung on consecutive weeks. Against Colorado, "Brook was great," Osborne said. "He didn't show any wear and tear."

The junior from Goodland, Kan., completed 12-of-17 passes, nine of them to tight ends Eric Alford and Mark Gilman, for 142 yards and a touchdown. He also carried seven times for 19 yards, a total that would have looked better but for a 15-yard loss charged to him when a center snap sailed over his head during the first series.

Except for an interception late in the third quarter, which set up the only Colorado touchdown, Berringer was nearly flawless in his decisions and performance. "In many ways, this was the biggest game he's been involved in," Osborne said.

Berringer showed no hesitancy to

keep the ball when the circumstances dictated. His first carry was on third-and-1 for 2 yards during Nebraska's first scoring drive. The first time he kept on an option, also during that series, he gained 11 yards.

"I think Brook did a tremendous job," said Cornhusker defensive tackle Christian Peter. "We're all proud of him."

Berringer was Berringer, according to Schlesinger. "He was no different than any other game."

Like his teammates, he apparently has grown weary of not being accorded the respect they've earned.

"We were labeled underdogs. We don't take that lightly, especially at home," Berringer said.
Would his performance con-

Would his performance convince those who have doubted his ability to get the job done? "I don't know. Probably not," he said. "But I hope so. I'm pretty happy with it."

Osborne was confident in Berringer, and everyone else, for that matter. "I felt if we would play well, we would win," he said.

Nebraska didn't hold back anything, and ran some things it hadn't shown this season, even when it was using the entire offense.

"What you saw is what you got," Osborne said.

What the 200th consecutive sellout crowd in Memorial Stadium (for the record, 76,131) saw was Nebraska's 22nd regular-season victory in a row, a streak that leads the nation.

The victory also kept the Cornhuskers' national championship hopes intact, even though they weren't ready to start lobbying for a No. 1 ranking. "I don't want to get involved in that," said Osborne.

Does Nebraska deserve to be ranked No. 1? "It's easy to say that. But is it going to happen? This (game) is a good argument, but a week ago, it was a good argument, too, and the week before that," Miles said.

"Right now, we've got more games to play," said Schlesinger. ■

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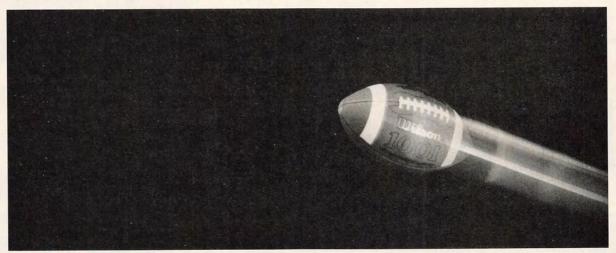




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When Tom Osborne decided to add a ferocious rushing attack to Nebraska's passing game, few could have envisioned the outcome

MASTE

ebraska's commitment to an option-oriented offense can be traced to the mid-1970s, during the early years of Tom Osborne's tenure as head coach. Osborne didn't wake up one day and decide to change his philosophy of offensive football. It wasn't that simple, of course. But 1976 works as a transitional season.

Osborne's fourth team led the Big Eight in passing offense, on the arm of quarterback Vince Ferragamo, in 1976. But it finished with a 9-3-1 record, the worst by winning percentage in Osborne's 21-plus seasons. The Cornhuskers were tied for fourth place in the Big Eight, their worst finish under Osborne, with all three of their losses coming against conference opponents.

Probably the most significant of those losses was against Oklahoma, by 20-17. The loss made Osborne's record against the Sooners 0-4. His teams would win only one of the next five games before Nebraska finally started holding its own

against Oklahoma.

The Sooners dominated the Big Eight, not just Nebraska, during the 1970s. Oklahoma won or shared every conference championship from 1972 through 1980. The Sooners were awarded national titles by the Associated Press in 1974 and 1975 and were never ranked lower than No. 7. Their success was based on the run-oriented wishbone offense, which enabled them to lead NCAA Division 1-A in rushing offense eight times from 1971 to 1987.

Since 1937, only seven teams have

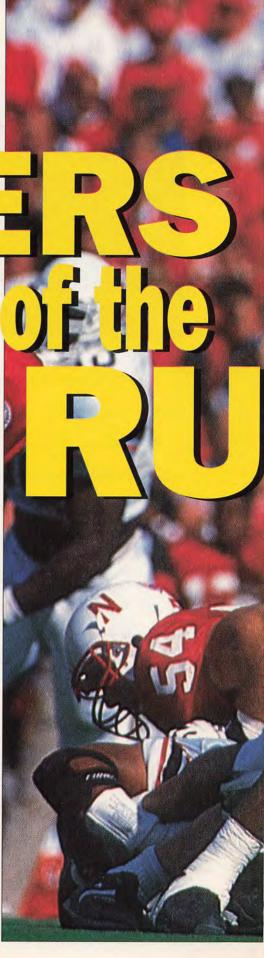
averaged more than 400 rushing yards per game for a season. The first five on that list of seven were Oklahoma, which set the NCAA record at 472.4 rushing yards per game in 1971.

The Sooners were the key that unlocked the door to offensive change for Nebraska. "My first seven or eight years as coach, the greatest source of dissatisfaction was how we did against Oklahoma," Osborne said recently. "We always had good throwers, (David) Humm, Ferragamo ... but we'd seem to get Oklahoma on the ropes and they'd have a quarterback with great option ability who would make a play to win. We had a hard time beating anybody who had speed at quarterback."

The names of Oklahoma's quarterbacks during that time were alltoo-familiar to Cornhusker fans. There was Steve Davis, who was followed by Thomas Lott, who was followed by J.C. Watts. They weren't particularly gifted as passers, but they could run. And with the run, they won.

The Sooners threw only two passes in the 20-17 victory against Nebraska at Lincoln in 1976, for example. And both were completed. The first came with 3:30 remaining in the game, when Lott handed to Woodie Shepard, who threw to split

Labeled a dinosaur by some, Nebraska's ground offense has produced eight NCAA rushing titles under Tom Osborne.





end Steve Rhodes. The play covered 47 yards and carried the Sooners to the Cornhusker 35-yard line. Then, on a third-and-19, Sooner quarterback Dean Blevins passed to Rhodes, who lateraled to Elvis Peacock for a gain of 32 yards to the Nebraska 2yard line, setting up the winning touchdown. The passes for 79 yards were in addition to 357 rushing

Such results convinced Osborne a change was needed. His team had

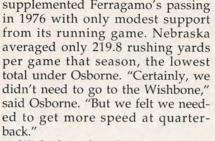


supplemented Ferragamo's passing in 1976 with only modest support from its running game. Nebraska averaged only 219.8 rushing yards per game that season, the lowest total under Osborne. "Certainly, we didn't need to go to the Wishbone," said Osborne. "But we felt we needed to get more speed at quarter-

With that already in mind, the Cornhuskers' recruiting class in 1976 included Jeff Quinn, a quarterback from Ord, Neb. Quinn had 4.7 speed in the 40-yard dash. When he became a starter, sharing the No. 1 job with Tim Hager in 1979, Nebraska's transition to an option offense was under way.

Hager and his immediate predecessor, Tom Sorley, were passers rather than runners. Sorley, a twoyear starter, rushed for 329 yards (on 152 carries) in three seasons, while throwing for 2,555 yards and 17 touchdowns. "Tom was a fair runner," Osborne said. "He could get

Turner Gill (left) helped turn Nebraska into the scoring machine that Tommie Frazier has been able to direct more than 10 years later.



Nebraska found a couple of such quarterbacks in Texas. The 1979 recruiting class included Nate Mason from Greenville. A year later, Nebraska recruited Turner Gill from Fort Worth.

you eight yards, but he probably

wasn't fast enough to go the dis-

tance." The same was true of Hager.

recruit sprinters at quarterback, but

speed," Osborne said. "If a guy

could pass on top of that, it was a

plus. But we wanted to make sure he

The idea "was not necessarily to

With the multi-talented Gill at quarterback beginning in 1981, the Cornhuskers achieved their greatest offensive success, leading the nation in total offense in 1982 and ranking second in 1983, averaging a schoolrecord 546.7 yards per game, including 401.7 by rushing — sixth-highest in NCAA Division I-A history.

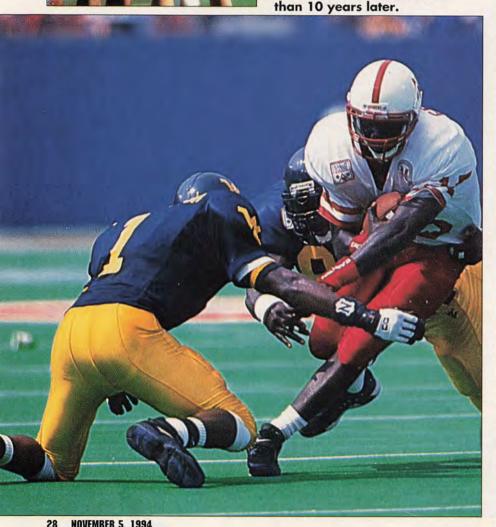
With a sophisticated running attack in place, Nebraska won three in a row against Oklahoma before the Sooners' option game produced four more victories from 1984 through 1987. Since then, Nebraska has won five of six from the Sooners.

Recruiting quarterbacks who could run was the first step. It was that simple. Then, "as we got those quarterbacks, we tended to run more options," said Osborne. Among those who followed Gill were Steve Taylor, Gerry Gdowski, Keithen McCant and, most recently, Tommie Frazier, perhaps the definitive quarterback for Nebraska's option offense. In contrast, Brook Berringer "has the potential to be as good of a pure passer as we've had," Osborne said.

Berringer, however, is different from the passing quarterbacks of the past. "He can run 4.6 (in the 40) or under," Osborne said. "He has enough option ability (to get by)."

The option quarterbacks have been complemented by linemen well-schooled in run blocking and a steady string of exceptional I-backs. Since 1946, the modern era, Nebraska has had 19 1,000-yard rushers, including Lawrence Phillips this season. Sixteen of the 19 have played for Osborne, beginning with Isaiah Hipp in 1977.

Six of Osborne's I-backs have rushed for 1,000 or more yards in Jarvis back-to-back seasons: Redwine, Mike Rozier, Doug DuBose, Ken Clark, Derek Brown and Calvin Jones. Brown and Jones each rushed for more than 1,000 yards in the same season, 1992.

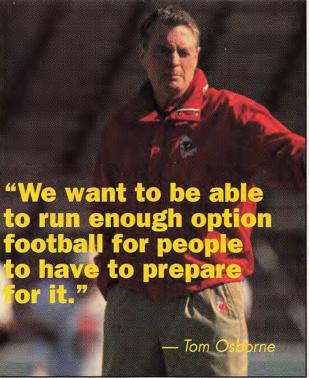


The Cornhuskers' top eight career rushers all have finished their careers since 1978, with Rozier atop the list. Rozier ran for 4,780 yards and 49 touchdowns in three seasons. The 4,780 yards is the third-highest total in NCAA Division 1-A history.

Predictably, quarterbacks also now appear well up on the rushing list. Taylor is No. 14, with 2,125 yards, 32 touchdowns and an average of 4.93 yards per carry over four seasons. Gill is No. 29, with 1,317 rushing yards and an average of 4.54 yards per carry. Gdowski, No. 32, averaged nearly eight yards per carry. And Frazier already is No. 27, with 1,351 rushing yards.

Once committed to the run, Nebraska saw immedi-

ate results. The Cornhuskers ranked seventh in Division 1-A in rushing in 1977, averaging 302.5 yards per game, 80 yards more than they had averaged in 1976. Nebraska has won eight NCAA rushing titles since 1980 and averaged more than 300 rushing yards every season since 1977 except



last season, Cornhuskers' 287.9 rushing yards per game ranked No. 3 nationally and tops in the Big Eight.

The correlation between rushing and winning has been obvious. Nine of the Big Eight championships Nebraska has won or shared under

Osborne have come since 1978. Going into the Missouri game, Nebraska's record since 1973 was 137-5-0 (.965) in games in which Cornhuskers rushed for 300 or more yards. They had won 59 consecutive games in which they had rushed for more than 300 yards, dating to the loss against Michigan in the 1986 Sunkist Fiesta Bowl. And they were 70-0 in games in which they rushed for 400 or more yards.

Osborne occasionally has drawn criticism for lacking offensive imagination, even though his teams annually rank among the nation's leaders in scoring. But even more significant than that is the fact that Osborne is the winningest active coach, by percentage, in Division 1-A.

Even if Nebraska's offense were to achieve more balance between pass and run, Osborne wouldn't abandon the option. "We want to be able to run enough option football for people to have to prepare," he said. "It complicates the preparation if the option is a threat."

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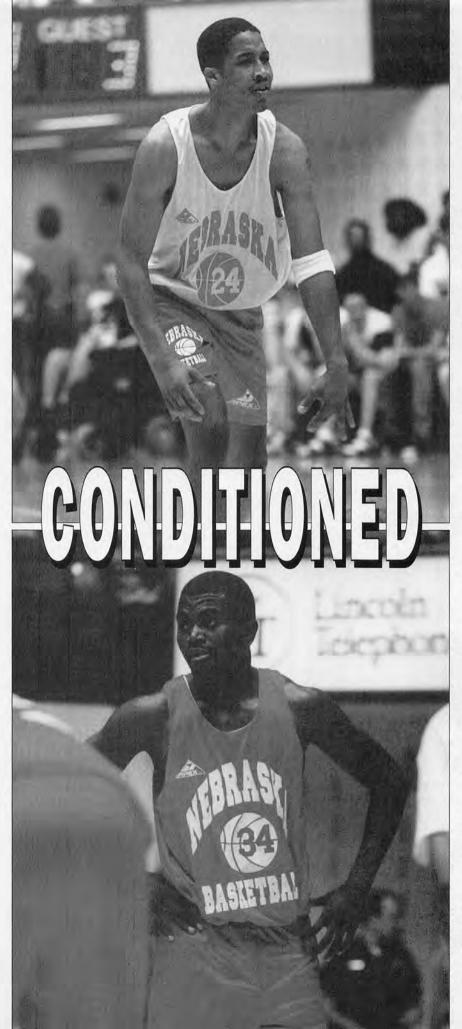




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asketball, like football, is becoming a game of speed. Consider Missouri last season. The Tigers were 14-0 in the Big Eight, only the eighth time in history a team has been perfect in conference play.

"Missouri was fast," Paul Koch said recently. "It was like a track meet, all of it sprints. And I thought

we were fast."

Koch is responsible for Nebraska's strength and conditioning program, which he geared to developing more speed this season. As a result, "We've sacrificed some conditioning now. But by the Puerto Rico trip, we'll be ready," he said.

In the past, the Cornhuskers have emphasized conditioning and stamina during preseason workouts. This season, the conditioning work was delayed until the early days of prac-

The result has been a quicker, more athletic team. "I'm really happy with the guys," Koch said.

The Cornhuskers have shown

HOOPS

remarkable commitment in strength and conditioning, according to Koch. During tests the first week in September, every player showed significant improvement.

Koch instituted a performance award, which he presented to players who improved

over their previous bests in four areas: agility run, vertical jump and 10- and 40-yard dashes. In order to earn a performance award, an athlete had to increase his personal best in all four tests. Koch expected 15 to 20 percent of the team to qualify for the awards. Eight of 13 did.

"These guys are on the top level,"

Koch said.

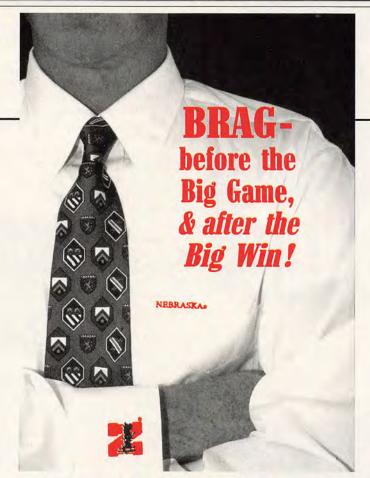
Melvin Brooks was among the eight, remarkable considering he's a senior, said Koch. A senior's maturity and physical development make improving more difficult. Yet Brooks' improvement was signifi-

Teamed with Jaron Boone (above), Melvin Brooks (below) dropped 22 pounds and eight percent body fat under the Husker conditioning program, which should prepare faster, stronger players.

"Melvin (Brooks) is totally changed. Now he looks like one of those Mighty **Morphin Power** Rangers"



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cant, if not dramatic.

When Brooks transferred to Nebraska from Chowan (N.C.) College, he weighed 255 pounds, with 17 percent body fat. "He was soft-looking, like he felt a little droopy," Koch said.

Brooks weighs 233 now, with 9 percent body fat. "He's a totally dif-

ferent person," said Koch.

No one was more committed to improving than the 6-foot-8 Brooks, who will be expected to provide experience and much-needed muscle up-front. Each day during the summer, he showed up to go through the exercise routine Koch designed for him. He and junior Jaron Boone were workout partners.

"Those two guys really worked at it. I was impressed with Jaron more than anybody," Koch said. Until this summer, Boone's behavior in the weight room was less than exem-

"Sometimes, if you're not successful at something, you find other ways to express yourself," said Koch. "I think Jaron always felt a little weak. So he had to be the joker in the weight room. He'd goof around. But I think he said, 'Hey, this is my

Boone has put on 10 pounds since last season, and "nine of those pounds are muscle," Koch said.

While Boone was adding weight, Brooks was taking it off. At the same time, he added an inch to his vertical jump (now 28), dropped his time in the agility run from 4.48 seconds to 4.39, dropped from 1.77 seconds to 1.71 in the 10-yard dash, and improved from 5.02 seconds to 4.9 in the 40.

"Don't let Coach (Tom) Osborne hear that," Koch said. The new Brooks might make a pretty good tight end.

"Melvin is totally changed. Now he looks like one of those Mighty Morphin Power Rangers."

Tom Wald, who sat out last season after transferring from Mankato (Minn.) State, also has changed.

In barely a year, Wald has increased his vertical jump from 26 inches to 34 1/2. "Last fall, he'd try to dunk with one hand and every once in a while, he could do it," Koch said. "At the end of the summer, he was dunking two hands, backward over his head. I'm waiting for a game when he's on a breakaway, to see how the fans react. Tommy shot up dramatically.

"The other guys could see how he

See HOOPS page 39

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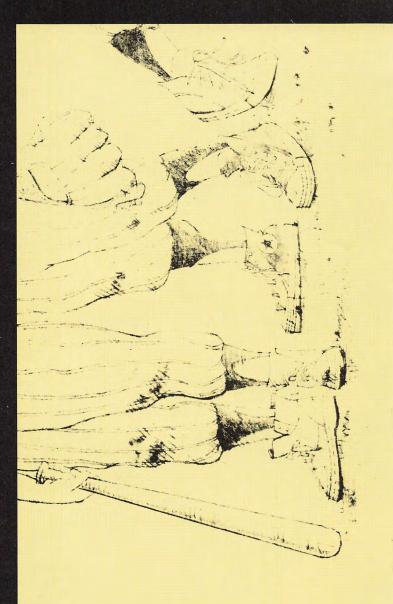
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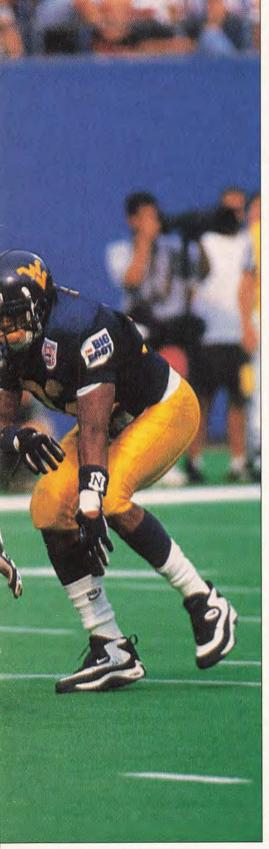
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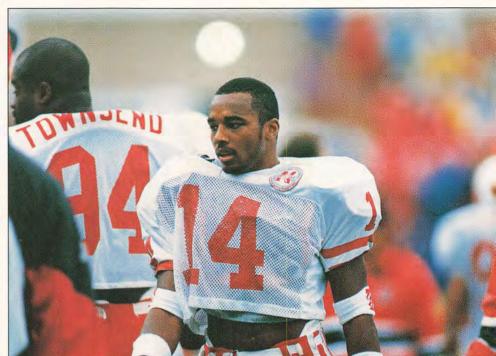
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SPECIALIST



Known mainly for his special teams play, Barron Miles could go down as the best coverage player in Husker history



A preseason All-American, Barron Miles has led by example during a season that has seen the secondary ravaged by injuries.

ebraska secondary coach George Darlington readily admits that senior Barron Miles is one of the best cornerbacks in Cornhusker history. But Miles himself isn't ready to take on that moniker.

By his own admission, the senior from Roselle, N.J., still has miles to go.

"I'm still improving, getting better," he said. "Maybe at the end of the season I'll be able to look at my career more objectively. Right now, I'm still trying to get better to help the team win."

Darlington, however, said Miles' play this season leads him to believe he may be the best coverage man he's seen wear a Nebraska uniform.

"He certainly compares very favorably with the best we've had," said Darlington, who is in his 21st season as a Husker assistant coach. "All defenders have their own talents, but Barron has made a lot of big plays. He'll probably go down as the best we've ever had back there, and we've had some good ones."

Miles' play against Kansas State certainly solidifies what Darlington thinks about the returning starter. Last year, Wildcat quarterback Chad May ripped the Husker secondary for a Big Eight Conference-record 489 yards passing. Miles made up for it this season when he helped hold May to 242 yards through the

air and broke up a school-record six passes.

Miles' best play came when, at the very last instant, he batted a pass away from Kansas State receiver Kevin Lockett in the end zone to prevent the Wildcats from scoring on the play.

Darlington's praise of Miles remained consistent.

"Barron played a fabulous game and showed great leadership," he said. "He made some unbelievable athletic plays. He probably played as well in a game as any corner I have ever seen here in my 21 years at Nebraska."

It isn't always easier for the 5-foot-8 Miles. Most of the time, he's matched up against the opponent's best receiver. Last year, he went one-on-one with UCLA's J.J. Stokes, who stands 6-4, and Colorado's Charles Johnson, who is now in the NFL with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Against Stokes a year ago, Miles broke up two passes and made seven tackles while giving up a halffoot in height.

Covering the taller receivers doesn't bother Miles. In fact, he kind

of enjoys it.

"It takes those tall guys a lot longer to make a break to the outside," he said. "With my short legs, I get out there quicker and I'm usually in pretty good position."

Nebraska as a team wasn't in good position often when the Huskers hosted Wyoming. Cowboy quarterback Jeremy Dombek threw for 264 yards, and the team finished with 344 through the air.

Miles, however, had two of his three interceptions against

Wyoming.

Two weeks later, when the Huskers were getting ready to face Kansas State, the secondary took a bashing. That fired up the Huskers.

"Everybody was downplaying us, saying we couldn't cover anybody," Miles said. "We came out against Kansas State and shocked everybody but ourselves. We showed that pass coverage is one of our strengths.

"Normally in the Big Eight, every team you see just wants to run the ball over you, so the defensive backs don't do much except make an infrequent tackle. I love it when teams pass. That means I'll be busier."

Miles is kept busy enough on the field. In addition to playing tough defense, he is one of the major contributors to the Huskers' special

Miles can either return kicks or block them, which he proved last season against Oklahoma State. With the Huskers trailing, he blocked a Cowboy punt and covered it all in one motion in the end zone, giving Nebraska the lead.

For the season, he had three

Already this year, Miles has matched his record. He's also returned one punt for 21 yards.

"I like making the plays, it doesn't matter where I'm at, what I'm doing or where I'm lined up at,"

The Huskers have had some problems in the secondary this season with injuries, especially at free safety. Starter Mike Minter blew out his knee against Texas Tech and is out for the rest of the season. His backup, Tony Veland, has been bothered by a sore knee and back. Eric Stokes, who began the year as a reserve at cornerback, moved over to add depth to that position.

Through it all, Darlington said the defense has depended even more on

Miles' leadership.

"All the guys look up to and respect Barron," he said. "He's shown great leadership when things go tough."

The preseason All-American has led by example this year. In seven games, he has three interceptions and has been in on 21 total tackles.

Miles especially shined when he returned to his home state to play against West Virginia in the Kickoff Classic in East Rutherford, N.J. He picked off a pass versus the Mountaineers and helped the Husker secondary hold their opponent to 81 yards passing.

More than 40 members of his family were on hand to watch Nebraska post a 31-0 win.

"That was a special game," he

Miles hopes to be involved in another special game to end his senior season. He would like another crack at winning a national champi-

Last year, the Huskers just missed out on the top prize when they lost to Florida State, 18-16. Miles played exceptionally well in the game, making seven solo tackles.

Still, the close call doesn't satisfy Miles or the rest of his teammates.

"We're not out to prove anything because of that game last year, Miles said. "We proved we belong with the best last year when we almost won, even though everybody was counting us out beforehand. We want to be in position again to win See MILES page 39

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NOTES

From page 9

And thinking about the present means Frazier spends a lot of time walking. Doctors told the junior from Bradenton, Fla., to do as much walking as he can to strengthen the leg.

What does Frazier think about his new mode of transportation?

"It seems like that's all I do now," he said. "I remember a time where I used to hate walking. You couldn't get me to walk from this field to the next field. I was, like, asking for rides over there."

The injury is made easier because Frazier has plenty of support to get

him through it.

"I have my problems but my teammates have been behind me 100 percent," he said. "I think it's the first time where I felt that I was up on top, then all of a sudden I'm down like I'm no one again. But something good is going to turn out from this, and I'm just hoping for the best."

Frazier is also hoping that a peti-

tion to the NCAA requesting an extra year of eligibility due to medical hardship will be granted. He had indicated during a news conference last week that he would love to receive an extra year.

Nebraska is seeking to attain a ruling from the NCAA discounting the West Virginia game as a a game that counts against eligibility in medical hardship cases. Under current NCAA rules, an athlete may not have participated in more than 20 percent of the team's games during a season prior to injury, in order to receive a medical hardship.

Under current rules, an athlete may not have participated in more than 20 percent of the teams' games during a season prior to injury in order to receive a medical hardship. Bowl games do not count as a game when calculations are made. So Nebraska will attempt to persuade the NCAA that the preseason Kickoff Classic is tantamount to a bowl game and therefore should not be included in the calculation of Frazier's playing amount this sea-

Including the Kickoff Classic,

Frazier played in three of 12 games (not counting nine plays against Pacific), or 25 percent of games. Excluding the Kickoff Classic and the Pacific game, Frazier played in two of 11 games — 18 percent.

Rudy Meets The Huskers

Former Nebraska student manager turned quarterback, Adam Kucera, met the real "Rudy" the Monday before the Missouri game.

Rudy Ruettiger, the subject of a 1993 movie based on his Notre Dame dream come true, walked on to the Fighting Irish team as a scout team player despite lacking adequate size.

After hearing about Kucera making the team, Ruettiger made it a point to travel to Lincoln to talk with the Husker. "It's great what he did, just to have that special feeling of never giving up on a dream," Ruettiger said. "It's going to help him out later in life."

Ruettiger told the Nebraska offense after practice that they should not give up on their dream of becoming national champions.

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MILES

From page 36

one so we can put the loss behind us."

Miles' talent also led Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne to give his cornerback a try at quarterback when injuries depleted the Huskers' depth there. Miles' experiment at the position lasted just one day and a few snaps, but he said he would be more than willing to play on both sides of the ball.

Osborne thought of Miles because he was an option quarterback in

high school.

"Every day when I go out to practice, the first thing I do is throw the ball around," Miles said. "I was doing OK there, too, expect for calling the plays. I let it be known that if I'm still needed, I'd be willing to try it again. I'm a pretty good quarterback."

But Miles' position coach is happy to have him full-time in the secondary.

"If we have an athlete who is capable of playing both ways, it probably would be Barron," Darlington said. "Hopefully, we won't have to find out." Darlington has been so impressed with Miles' versatility that he thinks he will continue his football career next season in the NFL.

Even though Miles doesn't have the size most NFL cornerbacks have, Darlington points to factors in Miles' favor: his speed in the 40-yard dash (4.64 seconds) and his ability to play just about anywhere.

"The way he always makes play after play, and with the things he can do on special teams, I think Barron has the talent to play in the National Football League next year," Darlington said. "It would be surprising if he doesn't."

HOOPS

From page 32

was playing, and it kind of caught on. These guys just went nuts."

Cornhusker Coach Danny Nee sees the results of such commitment. Brooks, for example, "looks great. He's cut down his body fat. He got lean, man," Nee said. "That has helped his confidence. We're counting on him to have a good year."

Most junior college transfers show significant improvement after a season in a program, and Nee considers that a factor, as well. "He's not a new guy on the block. He doesn't have to learn 75 to 80 percent of what we do now, like he did last year," said Nee.

Brooks played well coming off the bench last season, averaging 4.8 points and 4.3 rebounds. He played in all 30 games, starting three.

"I think his experience is significant," Nee said.

And so is his physical development. "You wonder if you're doing the right thing. Is this really going to work? Usually, you give a program two or three years to make a difference," said Koch.

The Cornhuskers are right on schedule, in strength and condition-

ing.
"Every kid here has been through it now," Koch said. "They always thought they were going 100 percent, when they were probably going 85 or 90."

Now, it's 100 percent, no question. The success of last season, winning the Big Eight Tournament and qualifying for a fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament, have made them want even more. They look at their championship rings and work harder.

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An overview of the Huskers' next foe. Get the stats, matchups and two-deeps. Updated by 8 p.m. (CST) Friday.

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Out-Standing On The Field

Solid group of outside linebackers being tapped by the Cornhuskers in hopes of finding the next Trev Alberts

By JAMES HALE

ast week we focused attention on the inside linebackers, those players that bang in the trenches from tackle to tackle and stop the inside running game of the opposing offense stone cold.

However, just about every one of those inside guys would love to have a few plays outside. Like Lawrence Taylor, who redefined the outside linebacker position. L.T. played the position so well that he's a certain NFL Hall Of Famer and recently had his number 56 retired by the New York Giants.

Recently, the Huskers have had their own L.T. Trev Alberts was the key to the Cornhuskers' switch to a more aggressive, 4-3 defensive front. Alberts was a prototype outside linebacker and was unblockable when rushing the quarterback. His talents in Nebraska's aggressive schemes made him a first round selection of the Indianapolis Colts in last year's NFL draft, and the seventh player picked overall.

So the search for another Trev Alberts is always foremost on the minds of Husker recruiters. That kind of talent on defense can turn games in a second, and does so on a

OUT OF SIGHT

Outside Linebackers	Ht.	Wt.	40	High School
Chad Kelsey	6-3	215	4.6	Auburn
Kareem Sears	6-3	230	4.5	Enid
Zuri Buchanan	.6-1	215	4.5	Desoto, Texas
Kory Minor	6-2	245	4.6	La Puente, Calif.

regular basis.

Nebraska already has a commitment from the best outside linebacker talent in the state. **Chad Kelsey** (6-3, 215, 4.6) of Auburn grew up a Nebraska fan and accepted the first Husker offer to come his way.

"It's a great school, with a great tradition," Kelsey said. "I've grown up a Nebraska fan all my life and it's always been a goal of mine to play there. When they offered, that was pretty much what I wanted to do anyway, so I didn't see much reason to wait around. I wanted to play for Nebraska, and when they confirmed that they wanted me to play for them, then it was a done deal."

Kelsey goes both ways as an outside linebacker and running back. Last season, Kelsey was busy with 68 solo tackles, 82 assisted, one interception and four sacks while rushing for 574 yards.

This season, Kelsey already has 762 yards rushing, 72 tackles and three sacks through six games.

Kelsey is also a standout basketball talent — averaging 19 points and 14 rebounds a game — and a triple jumper and long jumper in track. He hopes to follow in his hero's footsteps before his career is done in Lincoln.

"I have always looked up to Trev Alberts, and that's who I pattern myself after," Kelsey said. "I have looked up to him a lot. I don't just want to be a number at Nebraska. I realize there are a number of great athletes there, and only the best athletes can play early. However, that is going to be my goal. I want to be good enough to contribute as a freshman."

Kelsey also considered Kansas State, Kansas, Iowa State and Wyoming.

Nebraska has been able to sneak into Oklahoma and recruit very well the past couple years. The Huskers are once again in their arch-rival's territory chasing one of the best outside linebackers in the country.

Kareem Sears (6-3, 230, 4.5) of Enid, Okla., is one of the best pure athletes in the country. How many athletes this size win sprint championships in the 100- and 200-meter runs? Sears is one of those athletes who can run like a deer but also bench 300 pounds.

"He's one of the finest athletes I have ever seen in my years of coaching," Enid Head Coach Craig Simmons said. "However, it's his speed that



"I have always looked up to Trev Alberts, and that's who I pattern myself after. I don't just want to be a number at Nebraska. I realize there are a number of great athletes there, and only the best athletes can play early. However, that is going to be my goal."

Chad Kelsey



Standout seniors Donta Jones (84) and Dwayne Harris (86) will need to be replaced on the outside after the 1994 season.



really separates him from normal outside backers. He's just so quick and then has a burst that allows him to run with most skill position players on offense."

The battle for Sears is coming down to another battle between Nebraska and OU. Sears is unique in the Sooner State in that he has grown up a fan of the Huskers.

"I have always been a Husker fan, but I don't talk about it too much around here," said a chuckling Sears. "I have admired OU as well, and that's why my decision is going to be so tough. I would like to contribute as a freshman and OU is closer to home, which is important to my parents. It is really going to be a tough decision, and I really don't want to think too much about it until my season is over."

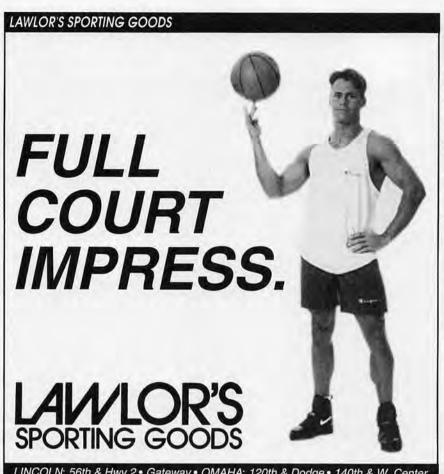
In Texas, **Zuri Buchanan** (6-1, 215, 4.5) of DeSoto is another great physical specimen who can fly.

TOP PLAYERS

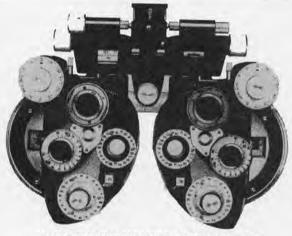
THE NATION'S BEST

It's still early, but already some of the best players are verbally committing. Below is a list, provided by *The National Recruiting Advisor*, of some of the best players by position and the schools they are currently considering.

	QUARTERBACKS (Pr	o Style						
	1) Dan Kendra III	6-2	225	4.6FSU, PSU, NC, ND				
-	2) Brock Huard 3) Bobby Sabelhaus	6-4	215 225	4.8ND, BC, Miami 4.7FSU, FLA, BC, OSU				
	4) Billie Luckie	6-2	205	4.65FSU, AUB, NU, SC				
OUARTERBACKS (Run-Pass)								
	1) Quincy Woods	6-2	185	4.5USC, NC, NU, CU				
1	Xevin Williams Duante Culpepper	6-1	189 210	4.6NU, TX, ARK, TN 4.6FSU, KY, SC, USC				
	4) Shaun King	6-2	190	4.5 Miami, Duke, NU				
	5) Jason Peace	6-1	170	4.6NC St, NC, TN, GA				
RUNNING BACKS								
	Kevin Faulk Ahman Green	5-10 5-11	195 196	4.35ND, PSU, LSU, FLA 4.36NU, ND, AZ, PSU				
	3) Brian Darden	6-0	190	4.34FSU, ALA, Miami				
	4) Rondell Mealey 5) Chafie Fields	6-0	180 190	4.4TN, PITT, ND, AZ 4.35PSU, ND, NU, TN				
WIDE RECEIVERS								
	1) Randy Moss	6-5	195	4.5ND, FLA, FSU, OSU				
	2) Peter Warrick	6-1	172	4.28ND, FSU, NC, MICH				
	3) Corey Jones 4) Billy Miller	6-1	170 205	4.4ND, FSU, PSU, MICH 4.55UCLA, USC, CU, ND				
Tight Ends								
	1) Rodney Brown	6-5	252	4.7ND, NU, TN, SC				
	2) Martin Simmons	6-4	255	4.8OU, FSU, CU, NU				
	OFFENSIVE LINEM		275	5.1 Minni VA ND ELA				
	1) John Shivers 2) Tim Ridder	6-5	275 271	5.1Miami, VA, ND, FLA 5.2ND, NU, WI				
	3) Michael Henry	6-3	300	5.2ND, NU, WI 5.2KU, OU, UCIA				
	4) Casey Bookout 5) Ryan Kalich	6-5 6-3	250 260	5.0OU, OK St, ARK, A&M 5.0FLA, OU, TX, IA				
	DEFENSIVE LINEM		200	3.0, By 30, 174 av				
	1) Aaron Williams	6-3	235	4.7ND, USC, NU, CU				
	2) Damon Luckett	6-4	225	4.6TX, OU, GT, CU				
	3) Chris Reed 4) Chad Pegues	6-4	245 270	4.6OU, TX, A&M, NU 4.9Miami, NU, OU, A&M				
	LINEBACKERS							
	1) Kory Minor	6-2	235	4.62CU, NU, ND				
	2) John Hilliard 3) Stafford Gaston	6-4	240 230	4.7A&M, OÚ, TX, ND 4.6Vandy, STAN, OU				
	4) Phil Fonua	6-3	270	4.8USC, UCLA, AZ				
	5) Eboni Wilson	6-3	245	4.9USC, AZ, WA				
DEFENSIVE BACKS								
	Robert McQuarters Toya Jones	5-11	180 180	4.4OU, TN, ARK, ND 4.3NU, ND, ARK, A&M				
	3) Robert Williams	5-11	175	4.5TN, ARK, NC, FLA				
	4) Mario Edwards 5) Daydrion Taylor	6-2 6-1	180 175	4.37FSU, TN, FLA 4.4ND, MICH, Miami, A&M				
	6) Charles Woodson	6-1	185	4.5MICH, Miami, ND, UCLA				
	7) Cephus Scott	6-2	205	4.55BAY, FLA, A&M, OU				



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Gateway Mall Lincoln, NE (402) 464-7416 Speed is Buchanan's game, but he can bench 310 and squat 505.

"I really like coach (Turner) Gill, who makes sure and calls me at least once a week," Buchanan said. "I really like how positive coach Gill is when he calls and his persistence as well. They also play the type of defense which allows the outside linebacker to make a lot of plays."

Buchanan is interested in Florida, Florida State, Nebraska, Texas A&M, Miami and Tennessee.

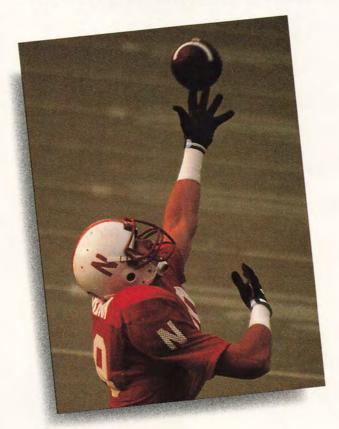
Kyle Williams (6-4, 220, 4.6) of Round Rock, Texas, has the height and speed you look for in an outside linebacker. He's qualified, has over 50 tackles through five games and admits that he is a big fan of Nebraska Head Coach Tom Osborne. Williams is looking at Nebraska, Tennessee, Miami, OU, Iowa and UCLA.

John Hilliard (6-4, 230, 4.7) of Houston (Sterling), Texas, may eventually grow into a down defensive end. However, he's so quick for his size now that he's standing up and has been unstoppable. Hilliard likes Texas A&M, Nebraska, Michigan, Florida State and Texas. The Huskers are in Florida looking to grab some of the top outside linebacker talent in that talent-rich state with the recruitment of Tim Beauchamp (6-3, 225, 4.6) of New Smyrna Beach and Rick Sealey (6-3, 235, 4.7) of Miami (Senior). Sealey has qualified and can bench 375. He favors the Huskers at the moment over Michigan, Arizona, Florida and Michigan. Beauchamp had more than 100 tackles a year ago and comes from excellent blood lines, as his brother Charles is playing in the CFL. He is leaning toward Notre Dame, with the Huskers in the chase along with Arizona, Florida State and Georgia.

Kory Minor (6-2, 245, 4.64) of La Puente (Bishop Amat), Calif., made more than 100 tackles a year ago and is on pace for another great season this year. Minor, while keeping an open mind, admits to a fascination with the Husker program. Colorado, Arizona, USC and Washington along with Nebraska are the favorites for visits. Marcus Carpenter (6-2, 210, 4.6) of Elkhart (Jimtown), Ind., has a large interest in the Huskers. Nebraska is in the chase with Indiana, Michigan State and Notre

All the players mentioned above possess the type of talent that the Huskers are used to playing with in their chase for national titles.

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